

Peter Sellars' historical perspective on one organization's relationship to its city is an educating experience of how a group evolves and adapts with social events of the day. The History of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows in the City of San Francisco is an in-depth study of how one organization expanded with its city. Over a 100vear period is covered in this book, where the men who were part of this Order will surprise the reader. It is not a dry "scholarly piece," but an easily written and visual record of a fraternity interacting within the city of San Francisco, before it was even called San Francisco. Here, the history is completely focused on the Order in San Francisco and woven with the city itself. The rich and in-depth story, taken from old minutes, scarce books, and oral tradition, uncovers a fascinating history.

The cover photograph was taken in 1904. It is perhaps one of the best photographs of the Odd Fellows building at 7th & Market Streets in San Francisco. Two years later, the building was destroyed.





THE HISTORY OF THE INDEPENDENT ORDER OF ODD FELLOWS IN THE CITY OF SAN FRANCISCO

An Early Fraternal Organization

PHIEFFER OF ODD FELLOWS IN THE

In Early Vesternal Organization

—THE ODD FELLOWS STORY—

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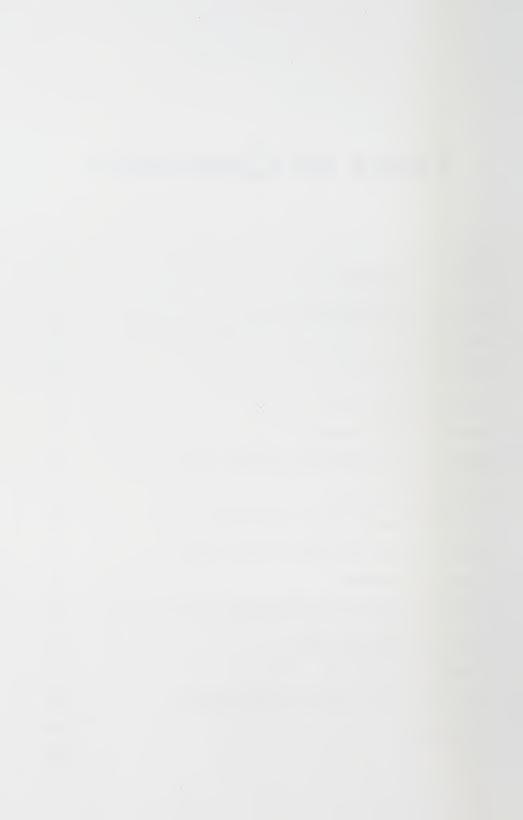
This project could not have been as thoroughly completed without the generosity and assistance of the following:

David W. Bandy, author and researcher (San Francisco), Laurie Prescott, Past President Rebekah Assembly (California), Christopher Craig (historian), John Meierdierks (Grand Scribe of the Grand Encampment of California), John Freeman and Darlene Thorne for use of their photographs and postcard collection, James Sossaman (Past Grand Master), Margareut K. Oleson (Secretary of the Rebekah Assembly of California), Jeremy Ritter for his mastery of digital imaging, Jane Hernandez for her direction and clarity conveying this writing, the Bancroft Library, San Francisco Public Library, San Francisco Historical Society, and IRIS Photo-Digital (San Francisco).



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INTRODUCTION

HISTORY OF ODD FELLOWS FRATERNITY IN SAN FRANCISCO

Through photographs, images, and narrative accounts of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows in San Francisco, one might see the impact this organization made on just one city in America. The focus of this project is the historical perspective of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and how it relates to the history of San Francisco.

The constant temptation to include more interesting information and other members from other areas of the state arose, but the story stayed on its scholarly track (focusing on San Francisco), with the exception of only one individual: Earl Warren is mentioned because he was one of the last notable public figures to hold membership in the Odd Fellows, and because he belonged to a lodge close in proximity to San Francisco. For his connection with the Odd Fellows, he is mentioned in the text of this project.

The discovery of gold not only brought most of the gold seekers to California via the docks of San Francisco, but it also brought people of all backgrounds and of different fraternal organizations. The Odd Fellows owes its early formation in San Francisco to the Gold Rush, as the city itself owes its rapid growth to the same.

The Independent Order of Odd Fellows was a powerful organization, having in its ranks notable figures. Its membership included congressmen, judges, police chiefs, attorneys, wealthy businessmen, newspaper moguls, blue-collar or white-collar workers, plus those of meager means. They all joined in the lodge room of Odd Fellowship.

In a letter dated May 23, 1934, from the American Trust Company to one of the Odd Fellows lodges inviting the members of the lodge to attend an Eightieth Anniversary of the bank, it was written, "your association reflects an important cross-section of our pioneer history." It was evident others saw the Odd fellows as being significant in the building of San Francisco.

The Great Earthquake & Fire affected the people of the city, as it affected its populace belonging to the Odd Fellows, and the organization itself. This story will relate that distressful time to the reader. While we almost lost a fraternity, the efforts of the Odd Fellows in 1906 helped to save the city. It provided relief to thousands of individuals, members and nonmembers alike. When martial law kept everyone out of the disaster area (the city), the Odd Fellows Relief Committee was given permission by the governor to access the city and provide help because it was already set up for this type of relief work.

The fact that most of the documents, photographs, literature, and other items were lost in 1906 due to the destruction of the Great Quake and the destruction of Odd Fellows Building made this project all the more challenging. However, with the kind assistance and direction by several friends and members of the Odd Fellows, enough information was put together to offer this insight of the early days of Odd Fellows in San Francisco.

Today, the Order is still in San Francisco. Although the organization has been swallowed up by an ever-growing modern society, it is still here. Some have incorrectly labeled the Odd Fellows as a "secret society," but that is far from the truth. Sadly, today it is—what many refer to as—"the best kept secret," but this is an unwelcome title and has deprived those in our communities the opportunity of personal enrichment through self-growth. Likewise, it has denied the Independent Order of Odd Fellows a potential membership that could lend its own experiences to the strength, will, and knowledge of this fellowship. There are no secrets for those interested in the Odd Fellows. The organization has been alive in San Francisco since 1849, officially instituted before California became a state.

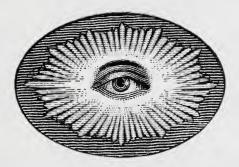
Although the philosophical aspect of the Order is not the center of this work, some of the ideology does occasionally permeate the story. It is absurd to label the Independent Order of Odd Fellows as an "imitator" of the Freemasons, as is done from time to time by those individuals ignorant of its teachings. In fact, it was extremely commonplace in the late 1800s and early 1900s to find men belonging to both organizations, because these were, in fact, two very different groups having different practices and principles. Where the Masons were vastly different, the Odd Fellows only used their "secret signs" and passwords to dissuade imposters and to avoid distributing financial benefits to nonmembers.

Since 1849, the organization gave to its members, as well as non-members of San Francisco, a library, a literary club, and emergency relief funds. It also supported and participated in citywide-related events, welcomed dignitaries, buried the dead, provided a cemetery, aided the communities during times of disaster, provided a bank, and supported numerous other endeavors lending to the expansion of this great new "City-by-the-Bay."

This writing correlates the growth of San Francisco with those activities of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows. It also chronicles the activities and accomplishments of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows in San Francisco through historical documentation and related images. This book covering the period from 1849 to 1949 is a marker for historical measure and will appeal to audiences with an interest in or a love for San Francisco.

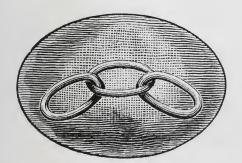


CHAPTER I THE ORDER



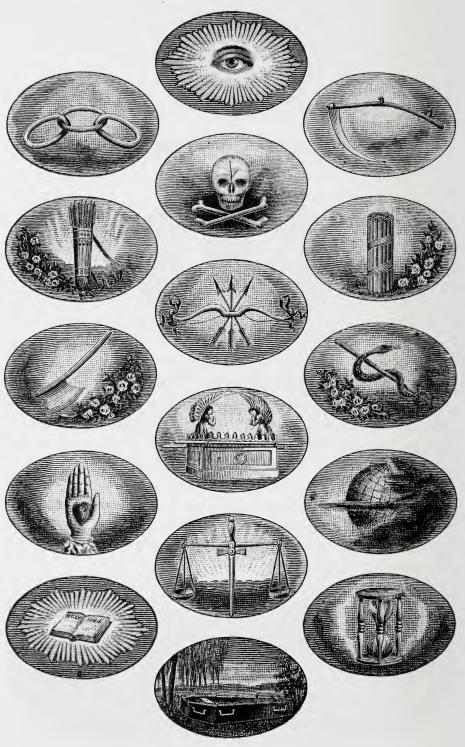
"All-Seeing Eye"

The all-seeing eye is watching you. This is what you believe if you are a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows. The eye reminds one that a Higher Being is always scrutinizing one's actions and thoughts. The skull and crossbones force one to be reminded of his or her mortality, and the duty to seek a proper burial or place of rest for a departed brother or sister. These symbols also encourage one to value the memory of that departed person's virtues. The scythe is the symbol of death. The serpent signifies wisdom; and the coffin is the final place of rest for a person. These are just a few symbols used by the Odd Fellows for hundreds of years.





"Three-Links" and "Skull and Cross Bones"



"Symbols of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows"

The Odd Fellows live by the meanings of these mentioned symbols and act upon them to affect positive change in the world; each member of the Odd Fellows lives by this moral code daily. Was this a "secret organization"? Yes. But only secret in so far as to protect the Order from providing aid to imposters. It kept its organization's works secret like any corporation keeps its plans and strategies secret from competitors. Often, these imposters were caught and the membership was notified of the offense.

The Grand Lodge, I. O. O. F., of the State of California,
Office of the Grand Master,

San Diego, Cal., June 24, 1914.

IMPOSTER—WARNING TO LODGES AND MEMBERS

To all Subordinate Lodges, I. O. O. F., under the Jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge, I. O. O. F., of the State of California. Dear Sirs and Brothers:

There is a man named George Krouse, traveling about the State representing himself as a member of Calumet Lodge, No. 601, I. O. O. F., of Hammond, Indiana, stating that he is without funds, has a family to support and a job to work if he can secure a loan of ten dollars for thirty days; he shows an Official Certificate, good for some months or about to the beginning of 1915. Said Krouse

JOURNAL OF PROCEEDINGS OF THE

[1915]

was a member of Calumet Lodge, No. 601, but was expelled about one year ago, his receipt being dated to September 30, 1913. If he has a receipt dated in advance of that date, it is a forgery and he is obtaining money from the Lodges in this Jurisdiction under false pretenses; if you can locate him, I would advise having him arrested as an imposter and as a warning to others who may try this game. He is a man about 5-ft. 7-in., weighs about 165 or 170 pounds, full faced, some freckles, sandy complexion, and has a heavy beard but keeps it shaved off clean; has belonged to Subordinate Lodge, Encampment and Canton branches of the Order. He claims to be married. The last heard of him was in the vicinity of Los Angeles, where he received a loan of ten dollars from the General Relief Committee and which has not been returned.

Fraternally yours,

A. P. JOHNSON Jr., Grand Master.

Attest: H. D. RICHARDSON,

442

Grand Secretary.

The preceding two images are a description of an imposter (con man), trying to obtain money from lodges; from the 1915 Journal of Proceedings.



OFFICE OF THE GRAND MASTER

Grand Lodge, J. G. G. F.

of the State of California

GRANT BUILDING, COR. 7TH AND MARKET STS.

H. D. RICHARDSON

San Francisco, Cal., July 25, 1907.

To all Lodges Subordinate to the Grand Lodge, I. O. O. F., of the State of California, Greeting:

We are in receipt of a letter from Orangedale Lodge, No. 211, I. O. O. F., Kings River, Cal., reciting that a Brother of that Lodge, named Charles J. Haywards, has disappeared. He had been acting as Treasurer and when he left in June last, is reported to have in his possession, \$440.13 of the Lodge's money.

His description, as furnished by Orangedale Lodge, is as follows: "Charles J. Haywards, about 40 years of age, 6 feet 2 inches in height, large, raw-boned, slightly stooped, rough, quick-talking man; has his right hand crippled, as if crushed or drawn up by some accident, is light complected, weighs about 160 pounds. He left the station at Del Rey, on the Santa Fe, Sunday, June 10, 1907, and bought tickets for Oakland. He was accompanied by his wife and two children, a boy and girl about 12 and 14 years of age. They had worked, previous to coming to Kings River, at Point Richmond, and Watsonville. They are working people. The man likes to work around houses, is a good teamster, driving four to ten horses. They were seen in San Francisco, between the 11th and 15th of June, 1907."

If the brother should present himself at your Lodge, please report to the Grand Secretary.

Fraternally yours,

F. B. OGDEN.

Grand Master.

Attest:

H. D. RICHARDSON.

Grand Secretary.

A letter sent to all Odd Fellows Lodges, describing a thief. Letters warning against flim flam men and imposters were also mailed to and from other lodges, as these were regular occurrences in the order. This particular notice was sent out on July 25, 1907.

The main tenet of Odd Fellowship is to "relieve the distressed, bury the dead, and educate the orphan." The Order seeks "to improve the character of mankind" by employing its main principles of Friendship, Love, and Truth.

The name "Odd Fellows" is derived from England during an era when it was thought to be strange or "odd" for people to aid each other







SAN FRANCISCO, CALIF

HJALMAR JOHNSON
GRAND MASTER
47 EAST UNION STREET
PASADENA, CALIF.

San Francisco, California June 5, 1929.

TO ALL SUBORDINATE LODGES UNDER THE JURISDICTION OF THE GRAND LODGE OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA:

WARNING KEEP THIS POSTED FOR REFERENCE



"CHARLES WILLIAMS" claiming membership in Park City Lodge No. 7, Park City, Utah, obtained seven dollars from Pajaro Lodge, No. 90, Watsonville.

His assertion of membership proved upon telegraphing said Lodge to be false and he was arrested after he had cashed the warrant, and was charged with "petty theft."

He has pleaded "not guilty" and will be tried.

Lodges should watch for this fellow as he will in time be released and may attempt similar practice.

DESCRIPTION

Dark complexion Aged about 45 years Height 5 feet 10 inches Weight about 160 pounds Wearing shabby dark blue suit

This description also fits a man who under other "aliases" and claiming membership in Colorado Lodges has been defrauding other Lodges in California.

MORAL—Before advancing relief, telegraph the purported member's Lodge.

A rare "wanted" poster, with an image of an individual accused of defrauding lodges. 1929.

by means of mutual benefit. When the group organized officially, it named itself the Odd Fellows. Another factor lending to the name Odd Fellows was that, during the first half of the eighteenth century, tradesmen or professionals neither belonging to a union or guild were referred to as being "odd."

6 ■ THE HISTORY OF THE INDEPENDENT ORDER OF ODD FELLOWS

On April 26, 1819, after several years attempting to establish the fraternity in America, it finally established itself at the Seven Stars Inn, in Baltimore, Maryland. Thomas Wildey is recognized as the founder of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows in North America. Expansion continued across the country. As America grew, so did the Odd Fellowship. In 1849, it had taken hold in Yerba Buena, what is now called San Francisco. The rest is history.



"Thomas Wildey, the Founder of Odd Fellowship in America".

Because the focus of this book looks closely at the history of San Francisco Odd Fellows, it should be pointed out that the Order's history is every bit as rich in other cities and towns throughout country. The Order has enjoyed the memberships of four United States presidents, the latest being Franklin D. Roosevelt. Literally scores of prominent figures in U.S. history have been part of Odd Fellowship.

THE WHITE HOUSE WASHINGTON

February 26, 1936

Dear Brother Deans:

Please accept my thanks for your kind letter of February twenty-fourth. As the years pass I am more and more convinced that the beneficent policy which has actuated our order was formulated on a sound basis and has been executed with true wisdom.

We have ever incorporated in our good works, education, establishment of homes for the aged, the indigent, the widow and the orphan so that it is our proud boast that every Grand Lodge in the United States has one or more of these institutions or has taken steps toward their establishment. So I think ours is a record to be proud of. I should greatly appreciate it if I may through you extend hearty felicitations to all members of our order.

Fraternally yours,

Frunklin It Swowish

Mr. Parke P. Deans, Grand Sire, Sovereign Grand Lodge of the I.O.O.F., State Office Building,

Richmond, Virginia.



CHAPTER 2 THE BEGINNING

he Gold Rush of 1849 brought more than gold seekers to California. It brought entrepreneurs of many trades, those dreaming of opportunities of wealth, fame, and fortune. It brought hordes of people to northern California, most of which came by way of sea on wooden ships, boats of all sizes, clippers, frigates, and even steamboats. These opportunists also traveled over the rough trail of what was then called the Kit Carson Pass. Today, it is simply called Carson Pass. Of course, the primary destinations were either Yerba Buena—later named San Francisco, or Sutter's Fort—later to become Sacramento.



"Forty-Niners". Many of these miners helped establish early lodges in California. Circa 1849. (Courtesy of Bancroft Library)

The Gold Rush of 1849 also brought many people who had belonged to clubs, social, and fraternal organizations back home in the eastern states. One of these groups was the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, an organization first originating in England and officially arriving in 1819 to Baltimore, Maryland. Many Odd Fellows, while traveling over the mountainous trails, would carve into the rocks or trees their three-links symbol. Along the pass they would also spread the goodwill of the Order.

Although several men attempted to establish an Odd Fellows lodge in San Francisco prior to the Gold Rush, none remained long enough in town to form a permanent lodge. However, Odd Fellowship in California would have to wait a little longer, as most of the new arrivals headed for the Sierra. It was not until after the Gold Rush had had time to cause miners to give up and return to the city that enough men would be available to institute a lodge. These so-called gold searchers met with hardships and would eventually return from the rivers, creeks, and mountains, searching for a place to settle.

Prior to being instituted in California, the few pioneer members hailing originally from other states tried in vain to find other members needed to establish a charter; at least five members were required. "In August, an attempt was made. A former member of the Order, walking the streets, ringing a bell, proclaiming in loud tones that all Odd Fellows were invited to assemble that evening in the little school house (located on Portsmouth Square) to organize a lodge."

Samuel Brannan's newspaper, the *California Star*, invited friends and Odd Fellows to gather at Portsmouth house. The ad read:

"Notice.—The friends of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows are respectfully invited to attend a meeting of the Order on Tuesday evening next, at the Portsmouth house. Many Odd Fellows. San Francisco, December 4, 1847."

About a dozen Odd Fellows responded by showing up at the Portsmouth house. Although this group held no charter or dispensation, it still resolved to organize an Odd Fellows lodge in San Francisco. The members present selected Dr. E. P. Jones as their Noble Grand,

Samuel Brannan as the Vice Grand, and John Joice as Secretary of the lodge. For a period of time, the Odd Fellows met at the Portsmouth house until it "fitted up a lodge-room in a framed building at Clarke's Point." Clarke's Point was a rocky piece of landmass located just below Telegraph Hill running out into the San Francisco Bay, near what are now Broadway and Battery streets.

Then came the Gold Rush, where nearly everyone left town. The members had burnt all of the important documents and stored the regalia and other items to keep them from falling into the wrong hands. A later fire, as there were many in San Francisco, destroyed the stored lodge items. Another attempt was tried to establish Odd Fellows in the town, but could not keep enough men around long enough to stabilize a lodge.

Even though a dispensation, dated January 12, 1849, was issued by the Grand Lodge of the United States to form a new Odd Fellows lodge in San Francisco, it was not until September 9, 1849, and after many attempts of trying to keep enough members with current credentials around long enough, that California Lodge No. 1 was instituted. This was the first official Odd Fellows lodge in California.

James Smiley was one of the original five members allowed to institute the new lodge. On September 9, 1849, he instituted California Lodge No. 1. The charter members of this new lodge were R. H. Taylor, H. W. Herley, E. C. Franklin, John M. Coughlin, Julius Rose, William Burling, J. N. Dall, David Jobson, and Lewis Tramble. Exactly one year later, California was admitted into the Union as the thirty-first state. As the state grew, so did Odd Fellowship. From this first membership there would blossom a membership numbering approximately sixty thousand in the jurisdiction of California.

Not only did the Odd Fellowship rapidly spread east and north from San Francisco all the way into the mining areas, but also to the south, first springing up in San Jose on December 30, 1854, then arriving in Los Angeles three months later on March 29, 1855. The growth of the Odd Fellowship kept pace with the growth of humanity.

Once California Lodge had been instituted, Sacramento Lodge No. 2 was formed in Sacramento, another jump-off point to the gold mines. This was significant because the fraternity spread as the Gold Rush spread. The next several lodges came to Eureka, Stockton, Oak Park; then to places like Auburn, Diamond Springs, Sonora, Grass Valley, Nevada City, Tuolumne, and further into gold country. Wherever gold seekers went, Odd Fellowship spread.

Back in San Francisco, Odd Fellowship was growing exponentially. The Order had even been supplying the new members to these faraway places by financing and assisting them in their travels to the mines. Members from distant places sought relief and assistance almost as quickly as they departed the ships, and the number of lodges grew from a single lodge in 1849 to 120 lodges in only 15 years. The Order was flourishing.

Once the Order was established in California, it immediately went to work in practicing its doctrines of relieving the distressed, visiting the sick, and burying the dead. In 1849 and 1850, a young doctor, also an Odd Fellow, John Frederick Morse, took up the calling of helping those who suffered from "the terrible scourge of cholera," as it was called, a sickness never before seen in California.

It is a fact, "the I.O.O.F. [the Independent Order of Odd Fellows] was the first American fraternal order to offer its members financial benevolences with regard to relief of the sick, distressed, orphans and burial of deceased members."

In 1853, after the initial pioneer lodges had been instituted, Samuel Parker, a Past Grand Master from the East, came to San Francisco to establish a Grand Lodge in order to direct and assist the new lodges. Parker became the first Grand Master in California. "The preliminary meeting for the institution of the Grand Lodge of California was held in the old hall of the Order on Kearny Street, San Francisco on April 11, 1853, at 11 o'clock A M." Twenty-two lodges existed at this time. By 1899, 351 lodges were active in the state and there were over thirty thousand members.

As a characteristic, the Odd Fellows believed that the "Visiting Committee" (members of a lodge chosen to visit the sick) was its most

important value. In an era where many men suffered while working under extreme conditions, it was not uncommon that many became very ill. Another characteristic was that when a member died, a proper burial would be provided and guaranteed. As once stated, [in] "our history no Odd Fellow has knowingly been permitted to be buried in an unknown grave." The Order acquired many plots in order to provide burial locations for members.

It was only natural for the organization to place its Grand Lodge in San Francisco, since this had been the place where it all began. The largest lodges in the state were in San Francisco. There were over thirty lodges in the city, an Odd Fellows cemetery, a Relief Association, a library, and a faction for women—called the Rebekahs. The fraternity had both its prominent members, as well as lesser-known members. There were judges, doctors, politicians, carpenters, and tradesmen of nearly all aspects of life. Past Grand Master William W. Morrow was appointed a U.S. district judge of California by President Harrison, and 6 years later became a U.S. circuit judge for the Ninth Judicial Circuit, appointed by President William McKinley.

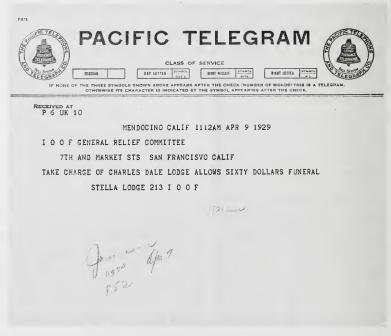
In 1928, at the height of its membership in California, the Odd Fellows in San Francisco enjoyed a membership of 5,431 members. Of the 58,882, not including the Rebekahs, Encampments, and other bodies of the organization, approximately 10 percent were active in the San Francisco. Odin Lodge No. 393, a Swedish-speaking lodge, and Morse Lodge No. 257, named in honor of the late Dr. John Frederick Morse, boasted the largest memberships, with 608 and 438 members respectively.

The Relief Association was formed to assist those who became ill, as many people found themselves without the means to survive the ordeals of health problems associated with working in and around gold mines. When no one else seemed to be able to help these people, the Odd Fellows were there for them. The Relief Association was even committed to burying the dead. It is stated, "Men were still buried in the filth of an unattended sickness, and frequently without the benefit of being sewed up in a blanket for internment. . . . The Association of Odd

Fellows spent thousands of dollars for coffins alone; and, when General A. M. Winn [an Odd Fellow] became the executive officer of the city government, August 25th [1849], no man was denied a coffin burial."

The Odd Fellows in San Francisco worked in vain at times just to assist thousands of new arrivals who found themselves in a new land with no money, no family, and no one to assist them when they were ill. Many were in this predicament or worse even before stepping off the steamers. On occasion, the Relief Committee hired attorneys to defend Odd Fellows in courts of law; it also supplied clothing to needy, and it helped widows of members find homes.

It is a less-known fact that the Odd Fellows at Seventh & Market streets established an Odd Fellows Employment Club. In 1919, a committee had been tasked with gathering the names and skills of those members needing work, and then another list of employers seeking workers.



Assorted telegrams.



VRA236 64 NL

VANCOUVER BC 17

SECRETARY

- 1484

GEN RELIEF COMMITTEE TOOF ODDFELLOWS TEMPLE SANFRANCISCO CALIF
YOUR WIRE 16TH RECEIVED TERRY IS MEMBER FAIRVIEW NO 61 VANCOUVER
BC LODGE FUNERAL BENEFITS SEVENTY FIVE DOLLARS WIDOWS BENEFITS TWENTY
FIVE DOLLARS ALSO FUNERAL AID TWO HUNDRED AND FIFTY DOLLARS FAILING
FAMILY INSTRUCTIONS PLEASE HANDLE FUNERAL CHARGE TO FAIRVIEW NO 61
W ROMAIN 1562 3TH AVENUE WEST IS SECRETARY TO WHOM COMMUNICATIONS
SHOULD BE SENT

J J CHIPMAN NG.



F37 SFF0 1145A 60 11 EXTRA BLUE

VANCOUVER BC APR 16 1929

SECRETARY GENERAL RELIEF COMMITTEE

I O O F ODDFELLOWS TEMPLE SAMFRAMOISCO CALIFORNIA
W S TERRY MEMBER FAIRVIEW LODGE NO 61 VANCOUVER BC DIED YESTER AY
YOUR CITY AND REMAINS AT HALSTED & CO 1123 SUTTER ST PLEASE LOOK AFTER
FUNERAL ARRANGEMENTS AND RE WIFE AND FAMILY ADVISING ALL PARTICULARS
HAVE WIRED HALSTED & CO TO CONFER WITH YOU

J J CHIPMAN N G 1195 HASTINGS ST W VANCOUVER BC PATRONS ARE REQUESTED TO FAVOR THE COMPANY BY CRITICISM AND SUGGESTION CONCERNING ITS SERVICE

CLASS OF SERVICE

This is a full-rate
Telegram or Cablegram unless its deterred character is indicated by a suitable

WESTERN UNION

SIGNS

DL - Day Letter

NM - Night Message

NL - Night Letter

LCO - Deferred Cable

CLT - Cable Letter

NEWCOMB CARLTON, PRESIDENT J. C. WILLEVER, FIRST VICE-PRESIDE

The filing time on shown in the date like on full-rate follograms and day letters, and the time of receipt at destination as shown on all messages, in STANDARD TIME.

Received at 1307 Market St., San Francisco, Calif. Telephone Sutter 4321, Local 248,629 MAV 16 PM 2 12

FA 131 19 10 EXTRA VIA WF DUPLICATE=BOISE IDA 15 355P

GENERAL RELIEF COMMITTEE | 0 0 F=/

PEARL HOPPER DIED MONDAY PLEASE WIRE DISPOSITION OF BODY=
SAM BLAIN SECRETARY BOISE LODGE #77 1 0 0 F.

Photo real services where the services of the

THE QUICKEST, SUREST AND SAFEST WAY TO SEND MONEY IS BY TELEGRAPH OR CABLE

PATRONS ARE REQUESTED TO FAVOR THE COMPANY BY CRITICISM AND SUGGESTION CONCERNING ITS SERVICE

7

SIGNS

CLASS OF SERVICE

This is a full-rate
Telegram or Cablegram unless its deferred character is indicated by a suitable
sign above or preced-

WESTERN UNION

son full-rate telegrams and day letters, and the time of receipt at destination as shown on all messages, is STANDARD TIME.

Received at

FW50 19=FERNDALE CALIF 5 1145A

925 MISSION ST., SAN PRANCISCO

GENERAL RELIEF COMMITTEE=

100F NUMBER 26 SEVENTH ST=

DO NOT MOVE MADSEN TRYING TO ARRANGE TO MOVE HIM TO HUMBOLDT WILL GUARANTEE ANY EXPENSE PENDING OUR DECISION=

ACTIVE LODGE 100F.

THE QUICKEST, SUREST AND SAFEST WAY TO SEND MONEY IS BY TELEGRAPH OR CABLE



WESTERN

DL = Day Letter

be prehistorie? athe date line on full-rate telegrams and day letters, and the time of recent a serie, TELEGRAPH 2 Market St., San Francisco. Calif. Always

BA31 18 NM 4 EXTRA=NORTHFIELD VT 26

GENERAL RELIEF COMMITTEE 100F= SANFRANCISCO CALIF=

USE OUR FUNERAL BENEFITS \$30 AND SEND BILL INVESTIGATE AND WRITE CONDITIONS:

INORTHFIELD LODGE NO 19 L M PERMIER SECTY.

1526 Muss

WESTERN UNION GIFT ORDERS SOLVE THE PERPLEXING QUESTION OF WIRE TO GIVE



STER

SIGNS

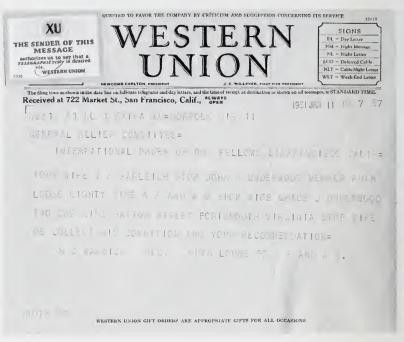
FAK25 32 1 EXTRA=FA LOSANGELES CALIF 19 1159A SUTTER 4-SECTY GENERAL RELIEF COMMITTEE | O O F=

1807 MARKLI STREET

7 & MARKET ST=

BODY OF GEO LEE YOUNG MEMBER IN DENVER COLO AT 649 GREEN ST YOUR CITY PHONE DOUGLAS 627 FORMER WIFE WILL NOT STAND EXPENSE WIRE ME INFORMATION= H B CRANG SECTY.

VESTERN UNION MESSENGERS ARE AVAILABLE FOR THE DELIVERY OF NOTES AND PACKAGES.



Assorted telegrams.

CHAPTER 3

THE NAMES

Templar Lodge No. 17 boasted many popular members who were society's elite, but lodges in the country had rich and poor, blue-collar and white-collar workers, and people of various backgrounds. Some of the better known members of San Francisco's Templar Lodge included Judge Lorenzo Sawyer, Honorable Charles A. Sumner (U.S. senator), Elias Driggs Farnsworth (Past Grand Sire, I.O.O.F.), Sheldon Gaylord Kellogg (famous attorney), Jacob Lorrilard van Bokkelen (once a member of the Committee of Vigilance of 1851 and the Sixth Grand Master, 1858–1859), Jacob Miller, William Chapman Ralston, founder of the Bank of California and noted as the "Man Who Built San Francisco," and Rueben Headley Lloyd, a pioneer lawyer of San Francisco who was a millionaire, having owned properties on Union Square Avenue, Front and Commercial streets, Sutter and Scott streets, Second and Folsom streets, Sutter, Mason and Geary streets, and Ellis and Hyde streets.

In fact, Rueben H. Lloyd served as Grand Marshal at the cornerstone ceremony on May 14, 1884, where the Odd Fellows Building was to be built at Seventh & Market streets.

Jacob L. van Bokkelen, Charles S. Eigenbrodt, and Samuel Brannan not only belonged to the same Odd Fellows lodge, but they were prominent members of the Committee of Vigilance of 1851 in the city, an organization which Brannan headed. Charter members of the Odd Fellows first lodge, California Lodge No. 1, John M. Coughlin, E. C. Franklin, and William Burling, were also members of the Committee of Vigilance of 1851. Richard Rust, an Odd Fellow belonging to yet

another lodge in San Francisco, was a member as well. A. C. Russell of Yerba Buena No. 15 was a member of the committee. Many of these men were members of the Odd Fellows before they joined the Committee of Vigilance of 1851.

The Committee of Vigilance of 1851 was established to create order in San Francisco. The task of controlling the criminal element, particularly a local gang calling itself the *San Francisco Society of Regulators*, and later *The Hounds*, which was running rampant at the time, was monumental for the newly established law enforcers. The Committee of Vigilance of 1851 took it upon itself to handle all serious criminal activity in and around the city. Some individuals were even hanged by the committee for committing serious crimes.

Samuel Brannan was a charter member of Templar Lodge No. 17, which was instituted on October 22, 1853. Brannan was twenty-seven years of age when the ship called the *Brooklyn* sailed through the



Samuel Brannan was the first Treasurer of Templar Lodge No. 17.

Golden Gate on July 31, 1846. He was described as being a man "slightly above medium height, deep-chested, broad shouldered, hair rather shaggy, wearing sideburns and imperial. His eyes were dark and remarkably beautiful, flashing eyes that gave great animation to his face."

Aside from gaining notoriety for being an entrepreneur, Brannan was also remembered for his connection with the Mormons, where he had established a tie 4 years prior to arriving in San Francisco (then called Yerba Buena). In New York, he had published a weekly newspaper for the religious group called the *New York Messenger*. In fact, on the voyage to California, most of the 236 passengers he had brought with him on the *Brooklyn* were Mormons. He was the leader of the migration of Mormons to Yerba Buena, and eventually to other nearby areas.

According to a British bartender named Brown, "The first wedding which took place after this city was under the protection of the American flag was performed by Samuel Brannan, according to the Mormon faith. I was one of the guests, and never enjoyed myself at any gathering as I did there. There was a general invitation extended to all, a large quantity of refreshments had been prepared, and everyone returned to their homes perfectly satisfied and ready to pronounce the first wedding a grand success."

In 1848, after establishing a supply store at Mormon Island, which he named Natoma, Brannan convinced the Mormons who were now mining on the American River that they should pay him "The Lord's Tithes" on their earnings. Some people thought the Mormons were fools for paying such a "tax." In the meantime, word about this tax had reached Brigham Young. Young sent an Apostle to collect the taxes Brannan had been collecting from the Mormons in the "Lord's name"; however, when the Apostle arrived, Brannan told him to "go back and tell Young that I'll give up the Lord's money when he sends me a receipt signed by the Lord, and no sooner!" That was the end of Brannan's relationship with the Mormon faith.

Brannan delivered the first Protestant sermon in the English language on William A. Richardson's grounds on Dupont Street. On January 9, 1847, he published his first issue of *The California Star* with the printing equipment he had brought with him on the voyage in 1846.

It was Samuel Brannan, upon his return to San Francisco from the mining camp, who shouted, "Gold from the American River!" From his enthusiasm and announcement of the discovery of gold, only seven men remained in town. All others followed Sam back to the diggings. The Odd Fellows attempt at instituting the first lodge was put on hold during this time.

Of course, Brannan's partnership with Charles C. Smith of C.C. Smith and Company store prospered. He had previously purchased all of the tools such as shovels, picks, and iron pans in advance of announcing the news of gold being discovered, which did not hurt his future prospect of becoming wealthy.

Of his many purchases of land parcels in 1849 while he was a member of the first city council, Brannan eventually built a spectacular structure named the Express Building. It was four-stories tall and was located on the northeast corner of Montgomery & California streets. The top floor was reserved for the Society of California Pioneers. In 1853, after serving as its vice president for three years, Brannan became the Society's second president, replacing W. D. M. Howard.

On February 7, 1852, Samuel and Ann Lisa Brannan deeded property on Mission Street between Sixth & Seventh streets to the Trustees for the Independent Order of Odd Fellows of San Francisco. In his later years, when Samuel was at a financial low point in his life, the Odd Fellows rewarded him for his kindness by establishing an income fund in his name, where dividends were derived from the profits of the Odd Fellows Cemetery. Samuel had given the organization this land nearly twenty-five years earlier.

Through his many enterprises, Brannan became the richest man in California. However, on May 5, 1889, in Escondido, California, he passed away a broken and penniless man. However, before his passing, he managed to obtain money from the Mexican government for lands he had held south of the Rio Grande, whereby he returned to San Francisco and paid all his debts. He was a man of honor. His body was laid to rest at Mount Hope Cemetery in San Diego, California.

Today, the Odd Fellows still retain the property on Mission Street given to them by Mr. and Mrs. Samuel Brannan. It is set up as a trust,

where each Odd Fellows lodge located in the city receives a share of the profit.

On May 17, 1853, Samuel H. Parker was elected as the first Grand Master in California. He was born in New Hampshire on July 23, 1818. Parker first joined the Odd Fellows on November 4, 1842, in Massachusetts, where at that time he was practicing law. When he came to California in 1852, he was commissioned as the Deputy Grand Sire, setting the stage for his election to Grand Master. His years were dedicated to the Odd Fellows. "He gave his time and money to the improvement of the Odd Fellows' Library of San Francisco, which for many years was the leading library of the City." Samuel Parker died on March 14, 1866. In later years, Parker Street in San Francisco was named in his honor. Samuel Parker was also the President of the Fireman's Fund Insurance.

Odd Fellow members Michael and Charles de Young had established themselves as being enterprising newspapermen in San Francisco. In 1865, they established the *Dramatic Chronicle*, later called the *Chronicle*. The publishing of this newspaper was a success for the brothers.

On April 23, 1880, Charles was killed by Isaac Milton Kalloch, the son of the newly elected San Francisco mayor, Rev. Isaac Smith Kalloch. It began when the *Chronicle* had run a story related to how Kalloch was forced to leave the Boston area for questionable activities. Kalloch, in turn, retaliated by insulting the character of the de Youngs' mother, causing an upset Charles to shoot and wound the mayoral candidate. Then, after the election, Isaac Milton Kalloch shot and killed Charles at the *Chronicle* office. His brother, Michael de Young, died in 1925 at the age of 75.

In 1869, it was William C. Ralston, president of the Bank of California, who guaranteed the expenses for a special train in order to bring dignitaries of the Grand Lodge on their last leg of a long journey from Omaha to San Francisco. This was the first time that the Grand Lodge of the United States was traveling such a far distance west, and it would be very costly. Once Union Railway Pacific and the Grand Lodge of the United States received the assurances, including a \$10,000 guarantee from his bank for expenses, the trip was underway. This was the same



Samuel Hale Parker. Became California's first Grand Master on May 17, 1853. He was instrumental in starting the Odd Fellows Library of San Francisco, which for many years was the leading library of the city. Parker Street bears his name.

1869 trip that brought the beloved James L. Ridgely to San Francisco, as well as other prominent members of the Order.

In 1876, Ralston built his famous Palace Hotel in San Francisco. This would later prove to be a worthy accomplishment given it had withstood the 1906 earthquake when most other buildings in the area crumbled.

Any one of several Odd Fellows has been called the "Builder of San Francisco" or "The Man that Built San Francisco," and so on...



An early photograph of Charles De Young. Caption below image reads: "CHARLES DE YOUNG. Houseworth, Photographer, 12 Montgomery St., San Francisco". Louisiana born, he was the co-founder along with his brother, Michael Harry De Young of the *Daily Morning Chronicle* newspaper (1868). (Courtesy of Bancroft Library)



William Chatman Ralston. He was a member of Templar Lodge No. 17. Also, founder of the Bank of California in San Francisco. (Courtesy of Bancroft Library)

William Ralston, who has already been mentioned, was one of these men; however, it is definite that Samuel Brannan laid the foundation for San Francisco the moment he stepped off the boat in the 1840s.

Charley Darkey Parkhurst joined Soquel Lodge No. 137 on October 18, 1867, 16 years after arriving by steamship to San Francisco. In 1851, after disembarking the *R. B. Forbes*, which had come from Boston, Parkhurst soon became one of the toughest, most popular stagecoach drivers in the Wild West, first driving in the gold mining areas in the Sierra foothills.

After his death from throat cancer on December 18, 1879, it was discovered that Charley Parkhurst was actually a woman who had been posing as a man for nearly three decades, a ruse so effective that on October 17, 1868, she registered to vote in Santa Clara County. This was a time when women were not allowed to vote. There was no proof that Parkhurst voted, but since she had taken the time to register, it is presumed she would have voted. This would, of course, make her the first woman to vote in the United States.

Parkhurst was buried at the Watsonville Pioneer Odd Fellows Cemetery. Later, her remains were exhumed and reburied, with a special marker placed on her grave.

General Albert Maver Winn joined the Odd Fellows in Sacramento, California. He was an important figurehead in the area before moving to San Francisco with his wife, Catherine, in 1860.



Daniel McLaren and General Albert Maver Winn. Noted I.O.O.F. figures of the Sacramento Odd Fellows Relief Association.

Winn was instrumental in heading a joint venture between the Odd Fellows and the Masons for establishing a hospital on land which he had donated. He founded the Native Sons of the Golden West (NSGW) and the Native Daughters of the Golden West. On July 11, 1879, the first NSGW meeting was called to order at Anthony's Hall on Bush Street.

The following year, Winn founded the Sons of the American Revolution, originally the Sons of the Revolutionary Sires. He was the organization's first president. This group marched in the Independence Day Parade in 1876, which was formed at the William Ralston's Palace Hotel in San Francisco.

In 1862, Winn's wife passed away and 3 years later, on September 16, 1865, he remarried to Charlotte L. King, the widow of the crusading editor of *The San Francisco Bulletin*, James King of William, who had been shot and killed by James P. Casay in 1856.

On August 26, 1883, General Winn died. He was buried in the Pioneer Plot of the Sacramento City Cemetery. At his funeral, in which many Odd Fellows attended, the Odd Fellows reflected on General Winn's life and his active participation in fraternalism. His grave was marked by the Grand Lodge of the I.O.O.F.

Leland Stanford, a member of Sacramento Lodge No. 2, established the Leland Stanford Jr. University in nearby Palo Alto. This was in honor of his late young son, to "benefit the children of his fellow men, and the most significant gift to the [human] race ever made by any single individual." Stanford University was built because of the values Leland Stanford practiced as an Odd Fellow. He gave with his heart and joined the Odd Fellows at Sacramento Lodge No. 2 on July 6, 1861.

After trying his luck at gold mining with his brothers, Stanford moved from the mining area to San Francisco in 1856 to expand his mercantile business. In 1861, he was elected governor of California, eventually becoming a U.S. senator (California).

By all accounts, and the fact that Leland Stanford was the principal of Central Pacific Railroad, he was the person that hammered the famous golden spike in Promontory, Utah, creating the first Transcontinental Railroad. He was well aware that a visit to San Francisco by the



Leland Stanford was a member of Sacramento Lodge No. 2, and also a frequent visitor to San Francisco and surrounding areas. Established Stanford University as a tribute to his late son, Leland Stanford, Jr. (Courtesy of Bancroft Library)

Odd Fellows' Grand Sire of the United States depended on the completion of the Transcontinental Railroad. The visit by the Grand Sire and his delegation took place in September of 1869, 2 months after the completion of the railroad.

Through the efforts of Ralston and Stanford, the Odd Fellows enjoyed one of the most important and celebrated events in the history of

California Odd Fellowship. In 1869, the Grand Sire of the Order came to visit San Francisco.

Earl Warren, a member of Oakland Lodge No. 3, had been a member of another lodge in Oakland before the new Lodge No. 3 was formed on July 10, 1945. San Francisco Lodge No. 3 became defunct in 1918; the old number three was taken by the two Oakland lodges which had consolidated in 1945, where Warren was a member of one of those lodges. He is remembered for his political achievements, having been the attorney general of California, elected as governor for three terms, and appointed as the chief justice of the United States. He retired as the chief justice in 1969.

Early notable figures in Odd Fellows included Wesley F. Norcross, publisher and editor of the *New Age* publication, who operated this company for over 21 years. He later relinquished it to Dewey & Company in 1887. James F. Thompson, another Past Grand Master, was the editor and proprietor of the Daily Standard paper, and eventually was elected president of the California Press Association. David Newell owned the Golden Gate Sal Soda Works. Dr. William M. Milton also served as superintendent of the Odd Fellows Home for the aged. Samuel Brannan, once a popular newspaper owner and land baron, was a charter member of the Odd Fellows Templar Lodge No. 17. John Bigler was the third governor of California. Colonel Richard Rust established the boundary line between the United States and Mexico; his son, also named Richard, was an attorney in San Francisco and eventually became a superior court judge. Lucius A. Booth was governor of California in 1871. There were other prominent members as well: Horatio Stockton Winn and his brother Major General Albert Maver Winn, who was the mayor of Sacramento in 1849; James Rolph Jr. was mayor of San Francisco; Charles de Young, popular businessman and cofounder of the San Francisco Chronicle; the great writer William H. Barnes, who wrote of many topics primarily dealing with fraternal organizations; Nathan Porter served as a state senator until his death in 1878; George Clement Perkins was the fourteenth governor of California. Superintendent of the California Street Cable Railroad in San Francisco, James W. Harris served in that capacity for 15 years; John Geary Jr., a prominent

attorney in San Francisco, worked out of the third floor of the Parrott Building. The "who's who" of Odd Fellowship in the early formation of the state of California goes on and on. In fact, most—if not all—of the founding fathers of the early towns were Odd Fellows.



John Lawrence Geary, Jr., was a member of Parker Lodge No. 124. He was one of the founders of a fraternal group named "the Supreme Executive of the Sentinels of the Universe".



George C. Perkins, was a United States Senator for California, and once the Governor of California. He was initiated into the Odd Fellows Oroville Lodge No. 59 on December 4, 1865.



Louis Leander Alexander was the Seventh Grand Master of California. He was a member of Yerba Buena Lodge No. 15 in San Francisco. In 1850, on his way to California, he and thousands of others were detained at Panama from the middle of April to the last of July. He helped organize the Odd Fellows Association, which cared for many of those who became ill, and buried those that died while in Panama.



Frank D. Macbeth,

Grand Master 1915-1916

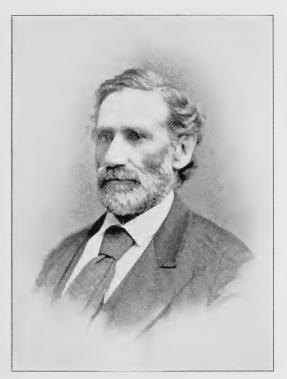
Frank D. Macbeth, Grand Master in 1915. He served as the Grand Secretary of California from 1933 to 1957. He was a member of Pacific Lodge No. 155.



Henry S. Martin served as Sheriff of the County of San Francisco. On December 6, 1883, he joined Franco-American Lodge No. 207.



In 1883, William W. Morrow was the thirty-first Grand Master of California. He was a member of Apollo Lodge No. 123. He was elected several times as a member of the United States Congress. In 1891 President Harrison appointed him the United States District Judge for the Northern District of California. On May 20, 1897, President McKinley appointed Judge Morrow a U.S. Circuit Judge for the Ninth Judicial Circuit. He died on July 24, 1929.

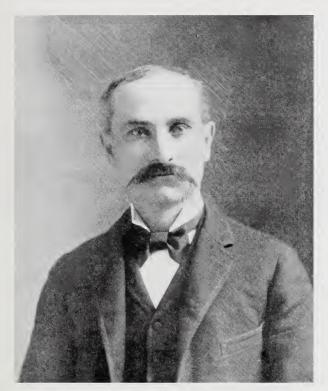


Dr. John Frederick Morse. Born in Essex, Vermont, in 1815. He was a doctor of medicine. In 1844 he joined the Odd Fellows, later moving to California, where he eventually transferred his membership to that jurisdiction. In 1869, he personally led a delegation to plant Odd Fellowship in Germany and Switzerland. He succeeded, despite having been taken prisoner in the, then, existing war between Prussia and France. He died in San Francisco on December 30, 1874.

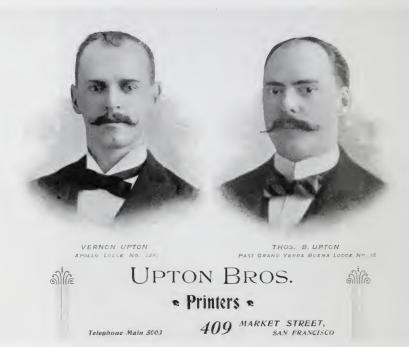




Odd Fellow W.A.S. Nicholson was active in San Francisco politics. He served the city in many capacities, including two terms as prosecuting Attorney. He was a member of Golden West Lodge No. 322.



F. L. Turpin was born in Lebanon, Pennsylvania, in 1847. At the early age of seventeen, he enlisted in the Union Army. After serving for the time of his enlistment in the Infantry, he re-enlisted in the 21st Pennsylvania Calvary, where he served until the end of the civil war. He came to San Francisco and organized the Columbian Banking Company. He joined California Lodge No. I and eventually transferred to Pacific Lodge No. 155.



An ad for the "Upton Bros. Printers". Vernon was a member of Apollo Lodge No. 123, and Brother Thomas, a member of Yerba Buena Lodge No. 15.



Frank D.Worth arrived in San Francisco in April, 1859. In 1870, he established his upholstering and decorating business near Polk and Sutter Streets. In 1888, he joined Yerba Buena Lodge No. 15, and was appointed the Chairman of the Parade Committee of the Golden Jubilee Celebration of the I.O.O.F., held in San Francisco October 18, 19, 20, 1899.

Again, any one of many members of the San Francisco Odd Fellows could have been chosen as focal point of this chapter. Whatever endeavors these men may have chosen, all shared the same fraternal organization and its causes.



CHAPTER 4

THE MOVE

In the early days of trying to settle down into one place, the Odd Fellows and the California Lodge No. 1 seemed to keep searching for the right place to call home. They moved from one location to another for various reasons and eventually found a home for their Grand Lodge.

The first meeting place was set up in a framed building owned by Levi Stowell and was on the east side Montgomery Street, between Jackson and Washington. The Odd Fellows shared this building with the Masons, another growing fraternity.

Then, an offer by Colonel J. D. Stevenson to move into the Mason's building was accepted by the young fraternal organization. The Order moved into the three story on the east side of Kearny Street, between Pine and California. And once again, the Odd Fellows shared the space with the Masons. They also shared the building with the *California Star*, a newspaper company headed by an Odd Fellows member, Samuel Brannan. The building is pictured in a Wells Fargo poster.

Located across the street from the Odd Fellows meeting place was Portsmouth Plaza, the site of many historic gatherings and events. One of these events was the hanging of John Jenkins, who, on June 9, 1851, had been accused of stealing a safe from a merchant's store. Jenkins was caught, tried by the Committee, and hanged the same night at 2:00 a.m. The Committee of Vigilance of 1851 was led by Samuel Brannan.

A fire later ravished the area, as there were many in the new city during those early days, and destroyed the building, forcing the Odd Fellows to move again. They immediately found a new home at the Gianella Building on the east side of Montgomery, between Washington and Jackson streets. The 1855 city directory lists the address as "184 Montgomery

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Street, 3rd Floor." Then on April 26, 1859, the organization moved yet again to larger quarters on the northeast corner of Bush and Kearny streets.

On May 6, 1863, the Odd Fellows dedicated the site for its new building at the "corner of Montgomery and Summer Street" in the city of San Francisco. The celebration included three thousand members, many banners, and a forty-four gun salute which was fired at "sunrise, noon, and sunset." The celebration wound up at the Metropolitan Theatre, where the crowd was overflowing. And in 1865, the organization moved into its new Odd Fellows Hall on the west side of Montgomery



Odd Fellows Building at 325 Montgomery Street, San Francisco. The group moved from the location to Seventh & Market Streets in 1884. Circa 1867. T. E. Hecht, photographer. (Courtesy of San Francisco History Center, San Francisco Public Library)

(325 Montgomery Street), between Pine and California streets. The future would hold one final move for the group.

Just a short distance away from its meeting place at 325 Montgomery Street was the Odd Fellows Savings Bank located at 238 Montgomery Street. Its president was Martin Heller. The fate of the bank is not known, but most likely it ceased after the 1906 disaster.

In May of 1884, the Odd Fellows, with several of their lodges, completed the construction of a wonderful temple—the Odd Fellows Temple. It was at Seventh and Market streets. They were now in San Francisco for good. The Odd Fellows never again left that site.

Although numerous lodges met at the Seventh & Market streets location, many others met at other locations throughout San Francisco, as no building could house the thousands of members that resided in the city.



CHAPTER 5

THE LIBRARY

There is little information that remains concerning the Odd Fellows Library; however, the importance of such a endeavor deserves mention.

The Odd Fellows in San Francisco housed one of the largest libraries in the state. It was no wonder that they also had a literary club. There were no less than twenty-six thousand volumes within it. "The Odd Fellows' Library, founded in 1854, has about 27,000 volumes, including the most valuable and extensive collections of documents and books, relating to the history of the Pacific Coast, in the world."

The Odd Fellows actually did more to promote literacy in the gold mining areas, as most of the lodges provided small selections of reading materials in the meeting halls, with a limited amount of books available to the members. Reading and storytelling were some of the only forms of entertainment at the numerous mines. It was natural that the lodges in San Francisco would create a library for their members. In 1854, in San Francisco, during one of the sessions of the Grand Lodge, the membership approved the establishment of a new library.

Answering a challenge of what the Odd Fellows could do to encourage readers of young age to read "good" books, Mr. George A. Carnes, librarian, of the Odd Fellows Library Association of San Francisco, stated the following:

"Even a child knows that forbidden fruit is the sweetest on the branch. If you wish to compel a boy or girl to read a given book, strictly forbid him even to take it from the shelves. The tabooed books will somehow be secured in spite of their withdrawal."

No. 10739.8.
EXTRACT FROM THE
BY-LAWS
OF THE
Odd Fellows' Library ASSOCIATION
OF SAN FRANCISCO.
This Book may be kept Two Weeks.
For each day kept over the above time, the holder will be subject to a forfeit of five cents. If a work of one volume be injured or lost, the same to be made good to the Librarian. If a volume or more of a set of books be
injured or lost, the full value of the set must be paid.
Press 9 Shelf

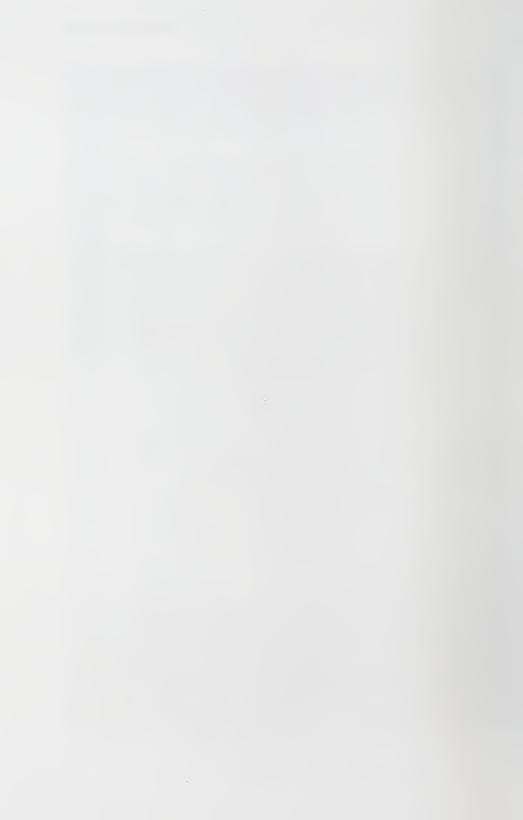
A rare label numbered "10739.S." from a book that once belonged to the Odd Fellows Library.

Much of the Odd Fellows' collection of books in San Francisco was destroyed in the earthquake and fire of 1906; however, books may still be found from time to time with the Odd Fellows Library label on the inside cover. There are only a few reminders of the great libraries that existed in the times prior to 1906.

Many of the Odd Fellows publications prior to the earthquake and fire of 1906 and after were printed by local member Joseph Winterburn, of Winterburn Company, Printers and Electrotypers, San Francisco, 417 Clay Street.



Joseph Winterburn was born in Northampton, England, March 9, 1836. He arrived in San Francisco on April 4, 1850, to seek his fortune. He learned the trade of printing with "Whitton, Towne, & Co.", and later established his own printing company: "Jos. Winterburn & Co." in 1866 at 417 Clay Street. His company printed many of the Odd Fellows booklets during the 1800's, where much of the material for this research was found.



CHAPTER 6 THE CEMETERY

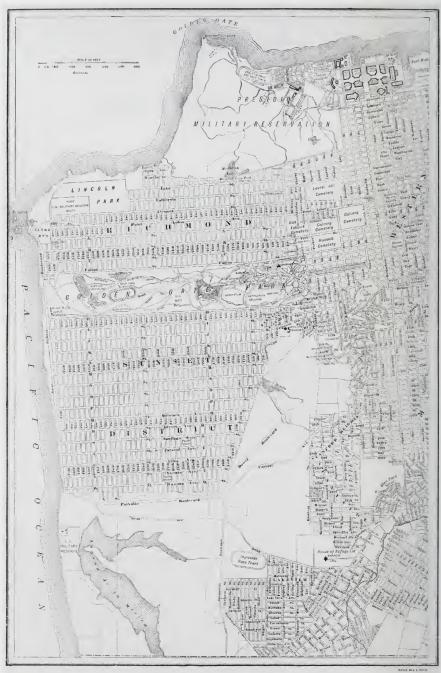
round 1850, member Samuel Brannan donated twenty-seven acres of land to the Odd Fellows for its first cemetery in San Francisco.

In 1865, with the approval of the Grand Lodge of California in keeping with its precept of "burying the dead," the Odd Fellows in San Francisco established a large cemetery with the founding of the Odd Fellows' Cemetery Association. On November 26, 1865, the newly acquired



Camp Merritt. Site of Odd Fellows cemetery is in far background, San Francisco. Circa 1898. (Courtesy of Bancroft Library)

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MAP OF THE CITY OF SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA (WESTERN HALF)

City of San Francisco map. Location of Odd Fellows cemetery is shown.



An entrance to the San Francisco Odd Fellows Cemetery. The Cemetery no longer exists. Today, only the Columbarium remains, which is now owned and operated by the Neptune Society.

grounds for the cemetery were dedicated. The master of ceremonies was Past Grand Master Samuel H. Parker. The Committee on Dedication included Charles Langley, George T. Bohen, Henry C. Squire, Henry B. Brooks, and James Adams. The listed location of the cemetery at the time of the dedication was Point Lobos Road, in San Francisco.

The cemetery surrounded the Odd Fellows Columbarium, built in 1898. This is the only remaining structure from the Richmond District cemeteries. The cemetery's boundaries were "irregular," falling between Arguello, Geary, Stanyan, Anza, Parker, and Turk streets.

At the time it was built, the Columbarium was considered the "finest" in the world. Today, the Columbarium is owned and operated by the Neptune Society. By definition, a columbarium houses numerous niches, which contain urns holding the ashes of cremated bodies.

In the 1890s, the corporation added a structure to handle the remains of those departed: a crematorium. The association strongly supported the idea of cremations, promoting the relatively new concept with a lengthy brochure. According to the California Genealogical



Image of the Odd Fellows Cemetery, San Francisco, circa 1900 (from "3D" stereoscope card).

Society, there were "10,000 records of cremations, dating 1895 to 1911," some of which included the cremating of disinterred burials from years earlier. The Odd Fellows Crematorium was busy.

Odd Fellow member George T. Bohen was the first president of The Odd Fellows Cemetery Association. Many prominent members of the Order were buried in the cemetery, as so stated in an excerpt from the book *Fifty Years of Odd Fellowship*. Facing the front of the Columbarium: "to the left [is] the last resting places of [Samuel] Parker, [George] Bohen, [Dr. John Frederick] Morse, and [Elias D.] Farnsworth." Also near the Columbarium was the sarcophagus of Congressman Piper.



This is a funeral, with James Harris wearing regalia on right side.



Bird's eye view of the San Francisco Odd Fellows Cemetery in 1899. The Columbarium still remains. Note the Crematorium in the right background. The cemetery was approximately located between Geary and Turk Streets.



Columbarium of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, San Francisco, 1906. Today, surrounding graves no longer exist.



Interior of the Columbarium, 1899.



RIGH OF THE INDEPENDENT DADER OF ODD FELLOWS, SAN FRANCISCO, CO

Crematorium.



Monument of Elias Driggs Farnsworth. In 1869, as Grand Sire of the Odd Fellows, he visited the State of California. He enjoyed his visits so much to the region that he retired to San Francisco after his term was completed. He lived in the city for 23 years before his passing.





Monument for Nathan Porter in the San Francisco Odd Fellows Cemetery. Nathan Porter was born in 1817. He was a longtime member of the Odd Fellows. He was once a member of Yerba Buena Lodge No. 15. At the time of his death on January 6, 1878, he was serving as a State Senator.

Brother Bohen arrived in San Francisco in November 1850. He transferred his membership from Baltimore, Maryland, and joined Yerba Buena Lodge No. 15 in 1853 (a lodge which still exists today). He was elected president of the Cemetery Association when it was organized and had been active in all aspects of the Odd Fellows' activities.

The Odd Fellows welcomed any religious denomination to use their chapel inside the Columbarium "free of charge, or restrictions of any character whatever."

"Odd Fellows do not feel the repugnance to death which is too often met with the thought coming to us through our ritual that those who have passed on are not dead, but simply asleep, to awake again in a better and purer environment." While the Odd Fellows Cemetery Association handled much of the business, the superintendent of the Odd Fellows' Cemetery, George R. Fletcher, a longtime member of the Odd Fellows, superintended the Columbarium and Crematorium. It was said he was dedicated to his work of overseeing the cremations. "... this man has made so careful a study of the entire subject-matter that from the time you enter the Crematorium with a body, until the entire work



George T. Bohen was the original President of the Odd Fellows Cemetery Association in San Francisco. In 1853, he became a member of Yerba Buena Lodge No. 15, before transferring his membership to another San Francisco Lodge—Pacific Lodge No. 155-in order to help institute that lodge. Mr. Bohen was one of the organizers and Commander of Golden Gate Battalion, Uniformed Patriarch, He was disappointed the Odd Fellows moved from its Montgomery Street property to Seventh & Market Streets. His remains rest in the San Francisco Columbarium. which was once in his charge.



Chapel.

of incineration has been performed, not a word is spoken, but everything is done automatically by the touch of a bell. You cannot fail to admire the genius of the man."

In the 1880s, the residential development had reached the cemetery and the San Francisco supervisors later established a law to prevent any further burials after 1901. After years of neglect and the damage from the 1906 earthquake and pressure from the local city government, twenty-eight thousand bodies were moved from the Odd Fellows Cemetery between 1929 and 1934. Today, many of these departed members rest in a mass grave on a neglected piece of land in Colma, California.

In 1904, the San Francisco Odd Fellows Cemetery Association purchased land in San Mateo County (Colma) from Mr. Morris Siminoff. A year later, the Odd Fellows Cemetery Association entered a highly controversial contract hiring the Golden Gate Land Association to lay out the new cemetery (Greenlawn), paying for this service with one-half of the proceeds from the sale of cemetery plots.

The general membership of the Order did not receive the arrangement between the Odd Fellows Cemetery Association and the Golden Gate Land Association very well. In fact, the membership ordered an



George T. Fletcher, was elected to the position of Superintendent of the Odd Fellows Cemetery in 1885. He was a member of the Alta Lodge No. 205.



H. E. SNOOK, Arvilo Lodge, No. -23

6 W KEELER Extels a lode - No 3 ©

G. P PERCHTOL

Golden Gate Undertaking Company FUNERAL DIRECTORS

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PRACTICAL EMBALMERS

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Lady Attendants at all hours.

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Telephone Mission 102

An ad for the Golden Gate Undertaking Company. All three proprietors are members of different Odd Fellows Lodges in San Francisco.

investigation of the transaction of both these corporations. It turned out the Odd Fellows Cemetery Association essentially gave away its total control of the new cemetery by allowing the Land Association one-half of the proceeds, whereby the Golden Gate Land Association was using the name of "Odd Fellows" to promote the sales of plots. It allowed those not belonging to the Order to purchase these plots, but little could be done and the Odd Fellows Cemetery Association endured harsh skepticism ever since.

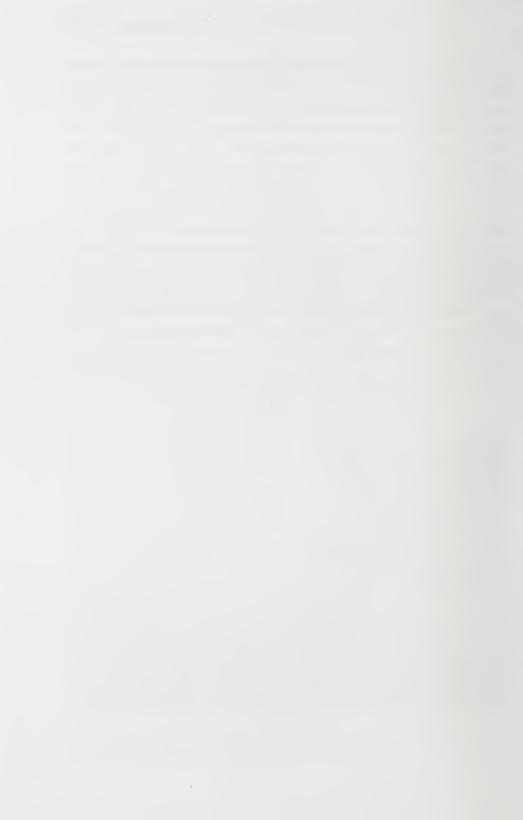
The resulting dilemma between the Odd Fellows Cemetery Association and the Golden Gate Land Association was finally resolved through a Special Committee for the Odd Fellows Cemetery Association. In its 1906 report, it was stated the Odd Fellows' Cemetery Association had "no legal relations or affiliations with the Order."



San Franciscan Charles De Young was a prominent member of the Odd Fellows. Lower portion of monument was left behind when it moved to Cypress Lawn Memorial Park in Colma, CA. (Courtesy of San Francisco History Center, San Francisco Public Library)

This report was approved, despite the fact that the land had been purchased by the Odd Fellows, dedicated by the Odd Fellows in 1865, named the Odd Fellows Cemetery, held the graves of thousands of Odd Fellows, and was managed exclusively by members of Odd Fellows. The name of the cemetery had always been the Odd Fellows Cemetery. Never was its relationship to the Order questioned, not until the dealings with an outside organization such as Golden Gate Land Association in 1904. Regardless, the Odd Fellows Cemetery was always under the auspices of the Order until it was divorced by the Order.

In 1851, years prior to the establishment of a cemetery at Geary and Masonic streets, the Odd Fellows selected a piece of land between Sixth & Seventh streets, on Mission Street, to be used as a cemetery. It was Noble Grand Samuel Brannan who kindly donated this plot of land for that purpose. However, no one was ever buried at this location and the property eventually became a source of revenue for lodges in the city, being set up as a trust after a court battle years later between relatives of the late Samuel Brannan and the Odd Fellows.



CHAPTER 7

THE ODD FELLOWS BUILDING—1884

n December 1, 1884, after construction of the new Odd Fellows Building at Seventh & Market streets, the Odd Fellows had found their permanent home. The Odd Fellows Building was a beautiful structure made of bright red brick. It was the flagship home for the organization. The Odd Fellows Hall Association of San Francisco was created to maintain and care for the building. It was comprised of many representatives and shareholders from each of the lodges in the city.

Michael H. de Young, for whom the de Young Museum was named, and the owner of the San Francisco *Chronicle* newspaper, was the chairman of the dedication ceremony of the new Odd Fellows Building.

The Odd Fellows Building housed the Odd Fellows Literary and Social Club at Seventh & Market streets. The objective was the improvement of members' knowledge about the work of the Order, as well as for social and literary purposes.

There is very little written history about the Odd Fellows Building at Seventh & Market streets because most—if not all—of the records were destroyed almost immediately after the earthquake in 1906. What records do exist are a few scattered years of annual recordings of the Odd Fellows Hall Association, most likely finding their way back to the Odd Fellows via members of the Order, after the Great Quake. The chairman of the building committee, Mr. Jules Cerf, spent 2 years overseeing the construction of the Odd Fellows Temple until the new building was finished.

"Our Temple is completed; may it always be the fountain from which shall continuously flow living streams of relief to the distressed



Drawing of the original Odd Fellows building in the 1880's, at Seventh & Market Streets.

and afflicted ones of our Order; and may it be the magnet that draw to our folds all the right-thinking, pure-minded men of our city" (A. W. Scott, president of the Odd Fellows Hall Association).

In the year 1887, twenty-three Odd Fellows lodges, three Rebekah [Degree] lodges, five I.O.O.F. Encampments, the Odd Fellows Literary and Social Club, a Degree Lodge, three Parlors Native Sons of the Golden West, one Court of the Ancient Order of Foresters, and one



Great image of the Odd Fellows Building at Seventh & Market Streets, in 1904.

Union of the Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners met in the large lodge rooms above the ground floor.

Some various craftsmen were selected for their expertise to construct the Odd Fellows Building at Seventh & Market streets during the year of 1885 to 1887; the following is a listing of these early San Franciscans:

Will & Finck: switch to annunciator and installation of brass bars at windows

J. H. Jackson: installation of lights in basement

P. H. Jackson: two hitching posts (for horses)



Stationery depicting Odd Fellows Building, dated May 2, 1899.

Ames & Detrick: awnings

E. H. Black: painting section letters

Wright & Sanders: balance of commissions

J. G. Leibert: brickwork

E. Farrell: carpenter

G. Griffiths: granite

R. Llewellyn: cast Iron

E. A. Rix: wrought Iron

Cronin & Dunbar: tin and slate

Geo. Milne: plumber

A. C. Corbett: plasterer

E. M. Gallagher: painting

Davis & Cowell: cement

On May 14, 1884, the cornerstone of the new foundation was laid. In 1888, while the building was still new, it was reported that there were several problems relating to the plumbing and many costly repairs that had to be tended. The repairs "being upwards of \$600, or





1884 dedication coin of the Odd Fellows Building at Seventh & Market Streets.



Ribbon celebrating the laying of the cornerstone of the new Odd Fellows Building, May 14, 1884.

nearly as much as was expended the preceding year for all repairs. This indicates either defective work or defective material, or both, done during the progress of construction."

Odd Fellow John Daly, for whom a nearby city is now named, was one of the association's thirty-six directors for many years.

As the years passed, the condition of the building was often noted in the Hall Association's reports. It seems the Hall Association, with this "new building," continually had to deal with many ongoing issues. One of them was the flooding of the basement due to the cutting of a main drain by the sidewalk elevator installers—A. J. McNicoll & Co. They had tried to conceal it before the Odd Fellows could make the discovery, but eventually, this would be repaired.

"I feel compelled to call attention to the condition of the walls throughout the building, especially the whitewalls. They are in exceedingly dirty condition, and such walls are studded and badly cracked; owing, I presume, to the shrinkage of the timber."

In 1892, it was reported that forty-nine organizations now used the floors above the street level. While the needs of the building were always demanding, use of the building never diminished.

Later, in that same year, new lighting was being installed; this was the Welsbach light.

The Odd Fellows basement was called the Good Fellows' Grotto. According to the *Daily Alta Newspaper*, dated May 7, 1891, the Grotto was a "first class restaurant."

Much work was done to the basement. Some of the contractors who worked on the facility were as follows:

Joseph Musto, marble work; G. Eastman, plumbing; A. M. Bruce, iron work; and L. Schmidt, carpentering.

It is ironic that in 1899, just as today, the Odd Fellows Hall Association hoped for improvement in the area. "The construction of the new Post Office and Federal Court building on Seventh Street, which



Moses Greenbaum was born in Germany in 1833. He came to the United States in 1847. Upon moving to San Francisco five years later, he transferred to the Bay City Lodge No. 71. For fifteen years, he served as a Director for the San Francisco Odd Fellows Hall Association. In 1895, he was elected Grand Treasurer for the Grand Lodge of California.

is, at last, proceeding with some degree of rapidity, will greatly improve the neighborhood."

For the next several years, the Odd Fellows Building stood as a jewel in the city of San Francisco. The Order was thriving and membership growing to its highest levels ever. Nothing it seemed could slow down the expansion of the Odd Fellowship. Everything was good—until April 18,1906.



Evidence of a one-time active order. Picture taken at the Odd Fellows Building at Seventh & Market Streets, 1904.

Many other organizations, businesses, clubs, and fraternal organizations grew in San Francisco, and the Odd Fellows soon faced the realization that their existence was in serious jeopardy because after residing in the City-by-the-Bay for 57 years, there occurred the worst catastrophic event on historical record in the state of California. Saving the organization would take a miracle—and a bit of pure determination.

CHAPTER 8

THE EVENTS

any significant events—literally hundreds—which were reported in every local newspaper, took place at the Odd Fellows Building and in the city of San Francisco. There were weekly dances, plays, skits, and theater-types of entertainment at the Odd Fellows Building. Outside organizations also used available spaces for events. In most cases, these events were opened to everyone—members and nonmembers alike.

Events included acts by local entertainers such as "Frankie & Johnnie," who always promised to get the audience singing before they finished a show. Artists' performances were provided by the National Broadcasting Service, whose offices were located at 111 Sutter Street in San Francisco; and various movies were provided by Ford Motor Company. Only a handful of these events are mentioned in this text.

THURSDAY DECEMBER 10, 1936

SPECIAL COLLAR AND JEWEL DINNER AND WHIST PARTY
THURSDAY DECEMBER 10th 6 P. M. IN ODD FELLOWS BUILDING

BY BAY VIEW REBEKAH LODGE No. 317
DINNER AND WHIST 50 CENTS
DINNER 35 CENTS
WHIST 25 CENTS
FIRST PRIZE \$5.00

DONT FORGET THE DATE DECEMBER 10, 1936

Dinners, parties, and other events were a regular occurrence at the Odd Fellows Building.

LAUGH AGAIN! LOYAL REBEKAH LODGE No. 215

WILL REPEAT, BY REQUEST THE LATE,

MINSTREL SHOW ODD FELLOWS' BUILDING

MONDAY EVE. AUG., 31

ENTIRE CHANGE OF PROGRAM

ADMISSION 25 Cents

DANCING AT 10:30 P.M.

ELITE

The events change as the times change, circa 1920. This event was hosted by the Loyal Rebekah Lodge No. 215.





FRANKIE and JOHNNIE In the Gay Nineties

Sensational Singing Act

Featuring Oldtime Songs and Community Singing, Solos and Harmony Numbers

An Earful of Excellent Entertainment

Under Exclusive Management of

Phone GArfield 0515 MARIE HURSEY

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SAN FRANCISCO, CALIF.

An advertisement for "Frankie and Johnnie", a popular act in the era of vaudeville. They performed at the Odd Fellows Building.

Amity Rebekah Lodge, No. 161, J. O. O. F.

Memorial Gall, Odd Fellows Building

We cordially invite you and your friends to attend a, ight in Japan, Saturday Evening elierday - June 8 1912

"Night in Japan" event, hosted by Amity Rebekah Lodge No. 161. 1912.

GOLDEN WEST ATHLETIC CLUB BENEFIT

CARNIVAL AND WHIST

WHIST PRIZES

DOOR PRIZES

\$10.00 CASH \$10.00 FIRST PRIZE & MERCHANDISE SEVERAL OTHERS

GIRLS POPULARITY CONTEST WINGO AND OTHER GAMES

TO BE HELD THURSDAY EVENING, APRIL 30, 1936

ODD FELLOWS BLDG.

26 - 7TH ST.

STARTING 8 P.M.



S. J. Theta Rho Girls Club No. 11 S. J. Lodge Junior Order No. 11

J. O. O. F.

cordially invites you to attend the

Joint Public Installation of Officers

Saturday Ebening, October 9, 1937

nt eight o'clock

Memorial Hall J. O. O. F. Building

7th and Market Street San Francisco, California

Dancing, with Transgrill's Orchestra

The children of the Odd Fellows thrived in the 1930's in San Francisco. Circa 1937.

DON'T MISS

Something doing every minute

-GAMES-VAUDEVILLE ACTS FREE DANCING GOOD MUSIC FREE GATE PRIZE

CARNIVAL BAŽAAR

GIVEN BY Morse Lodge No. 257 and

Golden Gate Encampment No. 1
Benefit of S. F. Junior Lodge No. 11
ENCAMPMENT HALL 6th FLOOR

SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 25

8:30 P. M. ADMISSION FREE

Event to benefit San Francisco Junior Lodge No. 11. Circa 1940.

OFFICERS AND COMMITTEES For Term Ending June 30, 1937

Noble Grand. ...F. R. MacCubbin

3332 Twenty-first Street, San Francisco VAlencia 4766

....C. W. English, P. G. Vice Grand... 1541 California Street, San Francisco

Telephone GRaystone 3880

238 Point Lobos Avenue, San Francisco

SKyline 2949

Recording Secretary... F. Jackson, P. G. 471 Rolph Street, San Francisco Telephone RAndolph 3961

Financial Secretary.....Samuel Burton, P. G. 575 Eighteenth Avenue, San Francisco BAyview 9146

Entertainment Committee

C. W. English, P. G. A. Raissle, P. G. R. E. Briggs, P. G. H. F. Byrne, P. G. O. E. Buchecker

Finance Committee

M. Abrahams, P. G. O. E. Buchecker J. A. Madsen, P. G.

Good and Welfare

Samuel Burton, P. G. R. Scott, P. G. F. Jackson, P. G. N. Angus, P. G. H. E. Nott, P. G.

26 Seventh Street, San Francisco



OFFICERS AND COMMITTEES For Term Ending June 30. 1937

Noble Grand F. R. MacCubbin 3332 Twenty-first Street, San Francisco VAlencia 4766

1541 California Street, San Francisco Telephone GRaystone 3880

238 Point Lobos Avenue, San Francisco

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Finance Committee M. Abrahams, P. G.

O. E. Buchecker J. A. Madsen, P. G.

Good and Welfare

Samuel Burton, P. G.

R. Scott, P. G. N. Angus, P. G. H. E. Nott, P. G.

No. 1, I.O.O.F. JULY, 1937 Meets every Monday WELCOME HALL ODD FELLOWS TEMPLE 26 SEVENTH ST. SAN FRANCISCO, CAL. - Marine Commence of the

OFFICERS AND COMMITTEES For Term Ending June 30, 1937

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SKyline 2949 Recording Secretary.... F. Jackson, P. G. 471 Rolph Street, San Francisco Telephone RAndolph 3981

Financial Secretary......Samuel Burton, P. C. 575 Eighteenth Avenue, San Francisco BAyview 914b

Entertainment Committee

C. W. English, P. G. A. Raissle, P. G. R. E. Briggs, P. G. H. F. Byrne, P. G. O. E. Buchecker

Finance Committee

M. Abrahams, P. G. O. E. Buchecker J. A. Madsen, P. G.

Good and Welfare

Samuel Burton, P. G. R. Scott, P. G. F. Jackson, P. G. N. Angus, P. G. H. E. Nott, P. G.



CALIFORNIA LODGE

No. 1 I. O. O. F.



APRIL 1937

WELCOME HALL ODD FELLOWS TEMPLE 26 SEVENTH ST. SAN FRANCISCO

Various Programs for semi-annual installations of officers. California Lodge No. I.



An 1800's photo of Morrison Point, Russian River, where many of the San Francisco Odd Fellows Lodges frequented for picnics.

ODD FELLOWS RECREATION CLUB

ON THE RUSSIAN RIVER

GUERNEVILLE CALIFORNIA

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An Odd Fellows playground of 217 acres with over one mile of river frontage where members and their families may enjoy, amid the scenic splendors, swimming, hiking, boating and other recreations in the redwoods.

C. A. CORBIN, Sec'y Box 505 Petaluma, Calif.

October 26, 1937.

Magnolia Lodge N°. 29, I.O.O.F., San Francisco, Calif.

Dear Brothers :-

We are enclosing information relative to our 4% Bonds now available only to Odd Fellows, Rebekahs, I.O.O.F. lodges and the other branches of the order.

We believe this to be an attractive issue due to our set-up and plan of retiring these bonds.

Should you desire further information, kindly let us know.

We trust we may receive your application for some of these bonds. They will draw interest from the date we receive payment for same.

Sincerely yours,

ODD FELLOWS RECREATION CLUB

C. B. Jessen, President.

Enc

Odd Fellows Recreation Club correspondence, 1937. Today, the Odd Fellows still use the Russian River facilities.

What was probably the grandest event of the Order happened in September of 1869. The Grand Sire Elias Driggs Farnsworth, along with a delegation of 122 representatives and others, traveled to California by train. This had never been done before in the history of the Order. Both the Union Pacific and Central Pacific Railroads brought



Elias Driggs Farnsworth, Past Grand Sire. Born in Hartford, Connecticut, December 16, 1818; died in San Francisco, California, March 29, 1893.

this party to California on different legs of the journey. This was the first time this Grand Body ever met west of the Missouri River.

In fact, in 1869, the Grand Lodge of the United States achieved the distinction of being the first organized body to cross the continent "by rail" from one seaboard to the other, when it held its session in San Francisco. Most of these dignitaries had originated from the East Coast.

It goes without saying that this would not have been possible if the railroad was not completed on time. Not only did the railroad have to be completely constructed in time, but financial backing needed to be guaranteed for the transportation of the delegation from Omaha to Sacramento, which was done.

A generous free passage proposal by Templar Lodge No. 17, of San Francisco, to the Grand Sire and his officers took care of the problem. The sum of \$10,000 was underwritten by the president of California Bank, William Chapman Ralston, who was also a member of Templar Lodge.

This visitation by the Grand Lodge of the United States was made almost immediately after the last spike—the Golden Spike—was pounded into the last piling (on May 10, 1869) at Promontory Summit, in Promontory, Utah, completing the first transcontinental railroad.

The large delegation arrived in San Francisco on September 16, 1869, via Sacramento, where the Grand Sire had previously laid the cornerstone for the new Sacramento Temple.

When the delegation reached the California Theatre in San Francisco, the Grand Master of California John Brown Harmon spoke to an excited audience. Then, the Grand Sire spoke. A jubilant crowd roaring with the expectation of hearing from James L. Ridgely shouted, "Ridgely, Ridgely, Ridgely." Someone in the audience then shouted "Light—a thousand dollars for light!" At that moment, every gas light in the theatre came on. This was a moment none in the audience would ever forget.

Ridgely was one of the most prominent Odd Fellows in the history of the Order in America, and he visited San Francisco. The Secretary of the Grand Lodge of the United States, the beloved James L. Ridgely, had been welcomed by thousands of Odd Fellows as he departed a boat coming from Alameda after an earlier visit. The procession that greeted him at the docks included a "platoon of police and a regiment of the National Guard, followed by thousands of Odd Fellows in full regalia to the Great California Theatre." The California theater was located on Bush Street.

All the visitors were transported by carriages to the theater. The cheers were deafening and only stopped when Ridgely spoke. He was humbled by the welcome. Years before, he had been credited with reviving the values of the Odd Fellows by changing the old image of a "bunch of drinkers" to an honorable band of brothers.

The visiting members enjoyed their time in San Francisco. On Friday afternoon, September 24, 1869, the Grand Lodge of the United States



James L. Ridgely. Born in Baltimore, the birthplace of American Odd Fellowship, January 27, 1807. He is "conceded to be the benefactor of American Odd Fellowship". Noted for writing the Past Grand's charge in the Odd Fellows Ritual.

"in full regalia, by invitation visited the Seventh Industrial Exhibition of the Mechanic's Institute." The delegation was never still as it was invited to many events. The event concluded on September 25, 1869.

Some individuals credit the continued expansion of the West with this particular event. According to the *Fifty Years of Odd Fellowship in California* (1899), the visit did more for California as a state than it did for the Order in the state.

"All that our visiting brethren saw was a new revelation to them and to the millions of people among whom they lived in their far Eastern homes, and those of them who still survive have not yet ceased talking of what they saw, singing the praises of California. Their reports of the visit and what they saw and learned on that trip, made in their Eastern lodges and on public occasions at their respective

homes, added many thousands to the population of California and the great but hitherto unknown West."

On December 11, 1890, the Women's Educational and Industrial Union held a benefit event which showcased many performances. The Odd Fellows Building was the venue for this wonderful event. It was a smashing success. The king of Hawaii, King Kalakaua, even came to see the show.

The Odd Fellows Building housed one of the most important musical events of the nineteenth century in December of 1890. Vladimir de Pachmann, considered the greatest pianist of his time, performed four times in the building, emphasizing the music of Chopin.

In the Hall Association report of 1897, an interesting report by its president was submitted which contained a story as follows: "In August last [1896] the officers of the library and other tenants of this building complained of being disturbed by the Socialist Labor Party, which frequently congregated on Seventh Street, near Market, for the purpose of holding 'open air' political meetings. It was represented to them that their exhortations disturbed the lodge's meeting in the building and were annoying to those in the reading rooms of the library. They were respectfully asked to discontinue their meetings at that particular place, which they positively refused to do." Eventually, the speakers were arrested and prosecuted, thereby ending the problem.

On May 22, 1898, soldiers, many of whom were members of the Order on their way to Manila to fight in the insurrection, were welcomed into the building. They were sent to battle with full stomachs and with "Godspeed" and primed by several motivating speeches. After the conclusion of the war, the soldiers were again welcomed home and again shown a wonderful feast and given many thankful speeches. In return, the Idaho Regiment presented its host, Bay City Lodge No. 71, a gavel made of wood from a Spanish garrote, and a silver badge of the Odd Fellows' Association of Manila.

In 1904, the Odd Fellows had welcomed its Sovereign Grand Lodge to the city of San Francisco. In its honor, the organization held a celebration that was called the "Odd Fellows' Celebration—Illuminations



Volunteers returning from the Philippines. In 1898, fighting men had been given a proper send-off by the Odd Fellows of San Francisco, and greeted upon their return. Bay City.



The U.S.S. Hancock. This ship served its troops in the Philippine war.



Fourth of July procession in 1899, also celebrating the return of the troops.

On Market Street," where thousands of lights lit up Market Street from the Ferry Building to the City Hall. Hundreds of thousands of lights were used in the event and the result was nothing short of spectacular. The decorations included lighted symbols representative of and unique to Odd Fellowship: the all-seeing eye, the three links of friendship, love, and truth; and much more. Thousands of people enjoyed the display.

On September 19, 1904, at 8:00 p.m., the officers of the Sovereign Grand Lodge were treated to an evening of entertainment at the Mechanics' Pavilion on Larkin Street. There were several musical events presented during the evening. The orchestra, under direction of Professor Carl Sawvell, played a "Welcome" to the honored guests. The Knickerbocker Quartette also performed, following performances by Susie A. Pracy and H. S. Stedman, a pianist and an organist respectively. Soloists Lulu Purlenky, a contralto, and Robert W. Jones, a baritone, each gave the audience their best renditions of "Let Me Love Thee" ("Arditi") and "Queen of the Earth" ("Penseti").

It is of particular interest that for many years in the early days of California Odd Fellowship, whenever a Sovereign Grand Master, or



Images from Odd Fellows light show on Market Street, in 1904.



Odd Fellows light show on Market Street, in 1904.



Odd Fellows light show on Market Street, in 1904.

"Grand Sire" as the title was later changed, was visiting the state, he would normally be greeted by the governor.

In 1905, the Grand Master challenged the membership in California to reach a level of 40,000 members by the end of his term. The Order reached 40,000 that year and had a statewide celebration aptly named "California's 40,000 Night," and was celebrated at each lodge throughout the state. This was called "the grandest conception ever recorded in the history of our Order."

For any organization to have reached a membership of 40,000 in a state was phenomenal at that time. To reach that number in less than 57 years is amazing. For the next 20 years, that number would only grow.

The Odd Fellows and all of its Grand Bodies participated in the 1915 Panama–Pacific International Exposition in San Francisco as did



Apollo Lodge No. 123, with other members of the order, at the 1915 Panama Pacific International Exposition.





Odd Fellows participating in parade. September 20, 1904.

Executive Committee or Reception of the Sovereign Grand Lodge 1. O. O. F., SAN FRANCISCO, CAL., SEPTEMBER 20-25, 1915

OFFICERS AND COMMETTEES

Jas. W. Harris, Grand Treasurer, President
R. D. Richardson, Grand Secretary, Secretary
C. E. Benedict, Grand Treas. Grand Encpt. Treasurer
U. S. G. Clifford, Asst. Grand Secy., Asst. Secretary
Mary F. Donoho, Sec. Rebekah Assembly, Asst. Secretary
J. K. Ritter, Maj.-Gen. Dept. Cal., Patriarchs Milliant
John Glasson, P. G. M.—Badge
Wm. H. Barnes, Grand Scitbe Grand Encpt.—Prizes
John Hazlett, Trustee Odd Fellows Home—Hotels
Geo. F. Hudson, P. G. M.—Music
H. D. Richardson, Grand Secretary—Printing
Henry Jacks, P. G.—Finance
T. B. W. Leland, P. G.—Parade, Grand Marshal

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Chairman

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J. B. OUTLAND FRANK D. WORTH

H. W. OSTHOFF

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W. W. Watson, P. G. M., P. G. R.
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T. H. Selvage, P. G. M., P. G. R.
A. P. Johnson, Jr., P. G. M., Grand Representative
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Geo. F. Ward, P. G. P., Grand Representative
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Adele Stockwell, President Rebekah Assembly
Page Deada Ritter, Vice President Rebekah Assembly
Emily M. Knoph, Warden Rebekah Assembly
Ennie M. Lacy, Past President Rebekah Assembly
Tillie Craig, Trustee Odd Fellows Home
D. A. Sinclari, Tutstee Odd Fellows Home

SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA AUGUST 6, 1915

Special Parade Circular

To Subordinate Lodges, Encampments, Rebekah Lodges and Patriarch Militants, I. O. O. F., of California. Greetings:

The Annual Session of the Sovereign Grand Lodge, I. O. O. F., will be held in San Francisco from September 20 to 25, 1915.

On Wednesday, September 22nd, at 10 a. m. will be held a Grand Parade. As this occasion will mark the presentation of our Order before the citizens of San Francisco and the visiting public, we must see to it that this public appearance will be made in a manner most creditable to our Order.

Your Parade Committee, therefore, invite your most loyal, earnest and enthusiastic cooperation in accomplishing this laudable object.

The time is short, but let us at once put our shoulders to the wheel and with prompt, active work we will have a parade, of which we will all be proud.

Just a few suggestions: The attractiveness of a parade depends largely upon its music, special original features, color schemes, etc. Bring music as much as you can afford.

If not uniform get up some original feature. If you can afford to do so, have a float.

Communicate with our Float Committee, of which Brother H. W. Osthoff, 522 Jessie street, San Francisco, is chairman, in regard to floats, size, prices, etc.

We will also depend especially upon the Robekah Lodges for original color effects in decorated automobiles, floats or other features.

Remember, especially if you bring a band or drum corps, it will be your band or drum corps and will not be separated from you.

If your attendance will be too small to participate as an individual lodge, join in and come as a district; but come anyhow. Bring your flags and banners,

Special dispensation will be granted for wearing regalias in public on this occasion.

In order that your committee may at once take up the parade formation, etc., please fill out enclosed card and forward promptly with such other information as you may consider to be of assistance to the Parade Committee.

The Parade will enter the Panama-Pacific International Exposition Grounds and appropriate exercises will be held in the California State Building.

By authority of the Grand Lodge, I. O. O. F. FRANK D. MACBETH, Grand Master H. D. RICHARDSON, Grand Secretary.

T. B. W. LELAND, Chairman JAS. W. HARRIS, President

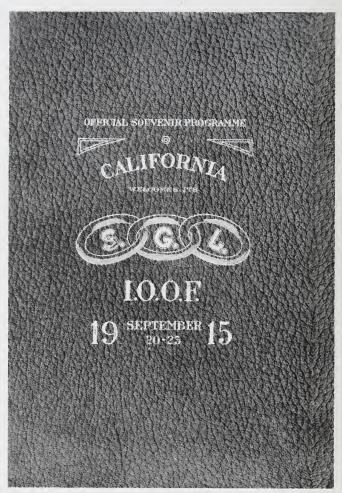


91st Session of the Sovereign Grand Lodge. The souvenir badge of this session, held September, 1915.

nearly anyone who resided or visited San Francisco in 1915. However, the presence of the Odd Fellows had to be noticed by everyone as they displayed probably the largest parade during the Expo. William Barnes, Grand Scribe of the Grand Encampment, describes the scene:

"Reaching from the Ferry Building to the entrance of the Exposition Grounds (a distance of four miles) was a solid phalanx of floats, banners, uniformed Patriarchs, marching brethren and sisters, bands and decorations galore. While many parades of many descriptions have occurred in this city during 1915, this procession was unique from the fact that it was composed exclusively of members of the Order, with the exception of a single platoon of police at its head, and was pronounced by thousands of spectators who lined the streets, as well as by the press of the city, to have been equal, if not superior, to any similar parade.

"At the California Building, a plaque was presented by the Exposition officials, who also provided a number of extra features, illuminations, emblematic fireworks, etc."



Official Souvenir Program of the Odd Fellows, made for the 1915 Panama-Pacific Exposition.

The Odd Fellows lodges with the largest turnouts for the parade received cash awards from the Grand Lodge. Apollo Lodge No. 123 received \$100 for having the most members marching in the parade.

In 1919, Grand Master Hugh W. Brunk held a grand event to celebrate the first 100 years of Odd Fellowship in America. "Brother Brunk presided over the Sixty-Seventh Session of the Grand Lodge, which was held at the San Francisco Civic Auditorium on May 13, 1919. The following day the one hundredth anniversary of the institution of Odd Fellowship in America was celebrated.



Apollo Lodge No. 123 was dressed for the occasion at the 1915 Panama Pacific International Exposition, in San Francisco. This picture is in front of the Palace of Fine Arts.

"The Anniversary Parade consisted of many divisions of Odd Fellows, Rebekahs, Cantons [militant group of the Odd Fellows], Encampment, and many members of the Order in the uniform of U.S. Army, Navy, and Marine Corps." There were several emblematic floats and several marching bands. The float leading the procession held Grand Master Brunk, Grand Treasurer James W. Harris, and San Francisco Mayor James Rolph Jr., who was a long time member of Fidelity Odd Fellows Lodge No. 222. Brother Rolph, 'Sunny Jim' as he was known, became the fourth native-born Governor of California in 1931.

"More than $10,\!000$ members gathered for the Grand Ball in the Civic Auditorium in the evening."

On Sunday, April 15, 1934, the Odd Fellows met at the Mt. Olivet Cemetery to rededicate the Dr. John Frederick Morse Memorial



Souvenir Badge, presented to Sovereign Grand Lodge, September, 1915. This Badge is from the Panama-Pacific Exposition of 1915.

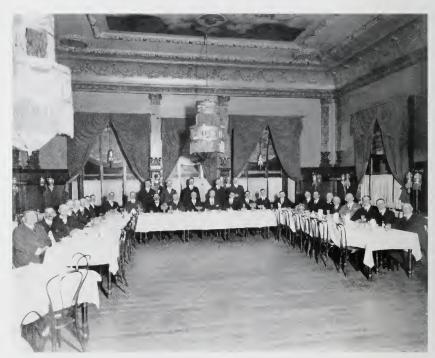
Monument. His grave and monument had been moved from the Odd Fellows Cemetery in San Francisco to Colma. Dr. Morse became one of the most notable Odd Fellows in that he had helped plant the seeds of Odd Fellowship, not only in California, but also in Europe as well. Thousands of people attended this worthy event, including the mayor of San Francisco, the Honorable Angelo Rossi; the governor of California, the Honorable James Rolph Jr.; Grand Master of the Odd Fellows, Fred Boeken; and the president of the Pioneers of California, Charles A. Shurtless. Dr. Morse was a very important figurehead in the growth of California.



Hugh Wilson Brunk, the 66th Grand Master, 1918.

Originally, the Odd Fellows paid tribute to their beloved member, San Franciscan John Frederick Morse, by creating a Morse Memorial Fund to purchase a monument worthy of this great man. In 1875, during the sessions of the California Grand Lodge, it was decided that \$5,000 would be the goal targeted to erect a monument on Morse's grave. After 5 years of saving what was a substantial amount of money in that era, a 17-foot monument was purchased and erected for a cost of \$3,000. This left enough money for the maintenance of the monument.

As the Odd Fellows supported one another in participating in events, the membership also supported other organizations. One of these included the support of "Blindcraft," an organization established in 1917 to support the blind. The organization primarily sold brooms to "housewives" in order to raise money for its cause, but it sold other items as well, many of which were made by the blind. The Odd Fellows were regularly asked to support "Blindcraft Week" (October) by asking



Odd Fellows enjoying a social in the Odd Fellows Building at Seventh & Market Streets, prior to 1906.

the membership to buy their products. Blindcraft was located at 1097 Howard Street, San Francisco.

ARABIAN NIGHTS EVENT

The Kings' Daughters' Home for Incurables Association held a 4-day festival at the Odd Fellows Building in January of 1891. As stated in the *Evening Post*, "The object of the association is the founding of a home and hospital for incurables, irrespective of sex and denomination, and it is intended to commence building the same as sufficient funds are on hand to warrant it." The *Post* added that, "... several members of the Olympic Club will give exhibitions of wrestling and other feats, and Miss Nellie Bowlin will execute several fancy dances." The event also included *Arabian Nights*, which portrayed the story of Sinbad. The *Caravan* as it was called, included many characters in the



San Francisco Canton No. 5, posing in Regalia.

play: "Sinbad the Sailor, Ali Baba, Blue Beard, Maronf (the henpecked husband), Joudar with his enchanted saddle bags, Ganem and other characters well-known to all readers of the 'Arabian Nights' tales." The event was headed by Mrs. Ella Sterling Cummins.

The events that occurred at the Odd Fellows Building, or by the Odd Fellows in the city, are too numerous to list in this documentary.

THE ODD FELLOWS GOLDEN JUBILEE CELEBRATION

In 1899, a grand celebration was held in the city of San Francisco to honor the first 50 years of Odd Fellowship in the state. This event was a spectacle to be viewed by all San Franciscans. Of course, numerous committees were formed to ensure the success of the entire event. Money was supplied by lodges throughout the state, for they were seeking the "most successful celebration of any secret Order ever held on



San Francisco Canton No. 5, 1936.

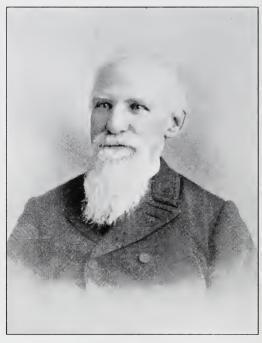
this Coast." There were special badges made specifically for the event. Ten thousand books were printed and literally hundreds of local San Francisco businesses placed ads in a limited edition 344-page book which sold for only twenty-five cents. Only 7 years later, most of those hundreds of businesses would fall victim to the Great Quake and Fire.

The official medal of the Jubilee was designed by Odd Fellow Horatio Stockton Winn, who also chaired the Committee on Souvenir Badges. Brother Winn was born May 24, 1824, in Nashua, New Hampshire. In February 1852, he departed Boston and traveled to California. The steamer he was sailing on, the *North America*, was wrecked off the coast of Mexico. His trip to California continued to be accident-prone as he and other survivors of the wreck made a 90-mile journey by mule to Acapulco, where they found another vessel to take them to San Francisco. It was not until July that he finally arrived in San Francisco. After settling in Sacramento, he opened a bakery where he eventually retired as a wealthy man.



Charles L. Patton, an attorney, located at 1011-1012 in the Claus Spreckels Building in San Francisco, expressed his interest in the Odd Fellows by sending a short note of inquiry, along with a \$25.00 donation toward the 1899 Jubilee Celebration.

The souvenir badge of the 1899 Jubilee was representative of a \$50 "slug," or gold piece, used in the early years of California's statehood. Featured are the emblems of the various branches of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows. In the center of the badge was a portrait of Samuel H. Parker, the first Grand Master of the organization in California. Today, there are only a handful of these badges remaining.



Horatio Stockton Winn.



Image of 1899 Golden Jubilee Souvenir badges designed to have the same shape and size as a \$50.00 gold slug. It sold for fifty cents during the celebration of 50 years of Odd Fellowship in California. Its designer was Horatio S.Winn, a long-time member of the order and brother of General Albert M.Winn; also a prominent Odd Fellow.

102 ■ THE HISTORY OF THE INDEPENDENT ORDER OF ODD FELLOWS



R. W. GRAND LODGE OF THE UNITED STATES, I. O. O. F., ASSEMBLED AT SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA, SEPTEMBER 20, 1869.

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Burnel Branching at the All Department of the year pain. In a financian was W. M. Bornell, to the Committee of the Committee			Photographed by BRADI	LEY & BULGHEON, 4	29 Monte	omery St., ogr. Serramento,	San Francisco, Oal.	

CHAPTER 9

TRAGEDY STRIKES— APRIL 1906

The Great Quake struck! Of the forty-five Odd Fellows lodges in San Francisco, only one escaped destruction. Repeat: only *one* escaped destruction! Spartan Lodge No. 125, which was located at Fourteenth & Railroad Avenue was spared.

The conditions were horrible in the city. The organization's leader, Grand Master William Wyler Phelps, stated:

"Thousands of brothers and sisters, together with their families, were rendered homeless and in many, many instances, penniless as well. Driven from home by earthquake and fire, exposed to the keen winds from off the ocean, wandering through the streets night and day, and in too many instances clothed in scant attire, our brothers, our sisters, our wives, our children struggled and tramped to reach a place supposed to be immune from the ravages of the awful holocaust, only to be driven again and again through the surging mass of humanity in awful strife to reach a place of safety. Husband separated from wife; father and mother from children, perhaps never again to be reunited; all striving with sheer desperation to escape from the wrecked and burning buildings, only to be exposed to the night air for one, two, three, and perhaps four nights with no place to lay their heads but on Mother Earth, with no covering to shield them from cold but the great canopy of heaven. Oh! how they suffered from hunger and thirst during those terrible days of April 18th, 19th, 20th, and 21st."

The great disaster "was by far the most serious in its effect, of any disaster in the history of Odd Fellowship. In loss of life and property, it is the greatest, by far, of any recorded disaster in ancient or modern history."



William Wylar Phelps was the Grand Master of California at the time the Great Quake and fire hit the city of San Francisco in 1906.

In his written report of 1906, Grand Master Phelps mirrored what many historians of the 1906 disaster now agree: "We well know the policy to minimize the loss of life at this time, to keep no record of deaths but those where there was some possibility of identification, but it is useless to conceal the truth, for the historians, who in after-years will write an authentic account of the 'earthquake and fire of 1906,' and will place a figure far and beyond those given to the world today."

Its flagship—its palace—the Odd Fellows Building was completely destroyed. What the earthquake did not destroy, the fire



Fire approaching Odd Fellows Building shortly after earthquake in 1906. (Courtesy of California Historical Society)



Down Market Street, from Eighth Street, shortly after the 1906 earthquake, prior to the Odd Fellows Building being dynamited. The damaged clock tower of the building could still be seen.

certainly destroyed. The building was actually blown up to prevent the fire from spreading. It was a firebreak in a sense, but a great loss. According to the *San Francisco News*, it took 750 pounds of explosives to destroy the Odd Fellows Building; however, in the dynamiting of the building, the blast was so tremendous that it caused \$100,000 worth of damage to the post office across the street.

There may have possibly been two separate incidences where the Odd Fellows structure was dynamited following the earthquake. On the photograph by the Pillsbury Picture Company showing the Odd Fellows Building being dynamited, it states "1000 lbs" was used; however, as stated in the previous paragraph by the *San Francisco News*, it took "750 pounds." There are images showing what remained after the initial explosion. In the actual images of the explosion, each appears to look different. It was apparent and plausible that an additional explosion would have been used to bring the rest down at a later date. There are disparities in the reporting of this occurrence.

Years of work, records, and money in the Odd Fellows Building were lost in the matter of moments. However, there was one incident that is worth mentioning: Odd Fellow member Thomas Mann, against the orders of soldiers, raced into the heavily damaged building by



Odd Fellows Building being dynamited after the Great Earthquake and Fire of 1906.



Odd Fellows Building at Seventh & Market being dynamited with 1,000 pounds of explosives. (San Francisco News agencies reported that it took "750 pounds"). Pillsbury Picture Company, No. 253. (Courtesy of California Historical Society)

climbing a fire escape and entering a window, then returning with the original charter of California Lodge No. 1. His actions were seen as heroic by many members, and the incident was reported in the 1906 Proceedings of the Grand Lodge of California.

There were so few records kept on those who perished in the Great Quake, but some deaths did manage to be recorded. A visiting Odd Fellow from Michigan, George M. Lockwood was killed instantly by a falling brick in front of the Wells Building on Clay and Montgomery. He had come from Stockton, California, for the day. When found, his skull had been crushed; in his possession was a letter from his wife in Wisconsin.

Within weeks after the destruction of the Odd Fellows Building, the parent organization (Grand Lodge), which had been located in the ill-fated building, set up its office in the spared Grant Building. Although the Grant Building was severely damaged, it would be quickly repaired, saved, and house the corporate office of the Grand Lodge.

Meanwhile, only by a narrow vote held on July 25, 1906, did the Odd Fellows decide to keep the property at Seventh & Market streets. With the decision to keep this property, the Odd Fellows guaranteed their continued existence in San Francisco.

The annual Odd Fellows Convention had been scheduled to be held in the city of San Francisco in May. It had to be relocated to Santa



Visible damage to Odd Fellows Building. Southeast on Leavenworth Street from Golden Gate Avenue, San Francisco, April 18, 1906. James O. Rue, Oakland, photographer. (Courtesy of California Historical Society)



Clean up after the dynamiting of the Odd Fellows Building at Seventh & Market Streets. 1906. (Courtesy of California Historical Society)



The remains of Odd Fellows Grotto after the 1906 earthquake. Image by Western Photographic Company, Los Angeles. (Courtesy of California Historical Society)

Cruz because there were no rooms or halls left standing that could accommodate a convention of any kind. Due to the extreme physical and mental pressures of having to reorganize the event in such short order and handle nearly all of the logistics, the Grand Secretary George Thomas Shaw, sadly, passed away only 5 days after the conclusion of the Convention. Most members agreed it was the stress involved from having to handle the move and the abrupt change that killed Mr. Shaw.

The Samuel Hale Parker Monument was also extensively damaged by the earthquake.



OFFICE OF THE CRAND SECRETARY

Grand Lodge, I. O. O. F.

of the State of California

GRANT BUILDING, SEVENTH AND MARKET STS.
SAN FRANCISCO, CAL.

REMOVAL NOTICE

On and after Monday, July 1, 1907, the office of the Grand Secretary will be located in the Grant Building, corner of Seventh and Market Streets. Fraternally,

Michardson Grand Secretary.

This postcard gives notice of the new location of the Grand Lodge. This move coincides with the reconstruction of the Odd Fellows Building at Seventh & Market Streets.

110 ■ THE HISTORY OF THE INDEPENDENT ORDER OF ODD FELLOWS



After the San Francisco Earthquake of 1906, the Grand Lodge set up its temporary office at 458 Duboce Avenue on the second floor. Several of the lodges moved their meetings to the Franklin Hall at the corner of Geary and Steiner streets and to the Auxiliary Hall at 1881 Bush street.



Born in 1832, George Thomas Shaw became a member of Spartan Lodge No. 125. He was elected Grand Secretary and served in that capacity until 1906; just six weeks after the 1906 earthquake. It is said the stress of trying to reorganize the office of the Grand Lodge before the annual convention took his life.

Being the type of organization that it was afforded it the unique opportunity of accessing a city under martial law during the initial stages of the crises and the days that followed the earthquake. The governor permitted the Odd Fellows to put into place the Disaster Relief Society (or Committee). This was one of only a handful of organizations allowed into the city under martial law. It should also be noted that the Odd Fellows "fed 12,000 to 14,000 people daily" in the first days of the disaster.

The Odd Fellows Relief Association was given a pass to enter the restricted areas in the city Of San Francisco during the period of martial law immediately after the earthquake and fire of 1906. The Association was able to provide immediate relief to members and many nonmembers. The Odd Fellows were one of the few groups equipped to handle disaster and met an obligation and need never seen before 1906.

It is remarkable, as widespread as the destruction was throughout the city, William Ralston's Palace Hotel managed to stay intact. His well-planned construction of the hotel, utilizing the concept of steel strapping, could have been useful to the Odd Fellows and their building.

GOVERNOR'S	OFFICE	PERMANENT	PASS
Oakl		April2	1906
PASS MR	Mendew gon hrough the lines in	Relief Go	a Dilli
with wat	frough the lines in	SAN FRANCISC	O.
	By order of GI	EO. C. PARDEE,	
Attest:	613	GOVERNO	OR OF CALIFORNIA
***************	J. W.	Adit G	en, of Cal.

A pass from the Governor's office permitting a member of the Odd Fellows Relief Committee to enter the city while it was still under Martial Law dated April 23, 1906.



Tent set up by the Odd Fellows Relief Committee shortly after 1906 earthquake. The Odd Fellows placed many of these "relief stations" throughout the city. (Courtesy of California Historical Society)



Odd Fellows relief station in the Mission. Members of the Odd Fellows standing in front of a I.O.O.F. Relief Station. This station was set up following the 1906 earthquake. (Photo courtesy of John Freeman)

The Sectetary of the Committee may be found at his office. Room 4, Odd Fellows Hall, every day (Sundays excepted) between the hours of 10 o'clock a. m and 4 p. m. for the purpose of receiving applications for relief and such new cases as may be presented.

In all cases of sickness reported to the President or Secretary during the week, a committee will be immediately appointed, and it shall be the duty of the delegate numbered I to visit the brother within twenty-four hours after being notified of his appointment.

The Chairman of Sub-Committees on sick are held responsible for the drawing of sick benefits for cases, and in the event of the absence of the Chairman, the next member of the Committee will stand to that duty.

In new cases the Chairman of the Committee will obtain a blank physician's certificate from the Secretary, and shall hand the same to the brother who is under the care of the Committee, who shall have it properly filled in, and which must be submitted to Committee at the first regular session after the case is reported.

In case of any disputes as to benefits, refer the same to the President or Secretary.

Always find out who the other members of the Committee are, as it may be necessary for you to know in an emergency.

The Committee meets every Friday evening, at 7 o'clock sharp, at Odd Fellows Hall.

Delegates may be represented by substitute. appointed by themselves, such appointment being in writing.

No substitute can serve more than one meeting consecutively, unless his credentials as substitute shall be approved by the Lodge which the regular delegate represents. (Art. X, Sec. 2. Constitution.)

FINES AND PENALTIES

Absences from meetings, delegates fifty cents, tardiness twenty five cents, Finance Committee one dollar, officers, one dollar, tardiness fifty cents, fullure to visit the sick, fifty cents, non-attendance at funerals, two dollars; only excuse taken is sickness of self or family; substitutes may be appointed.

In changing your residence or business place, immediately notify the Secretary.

Phone UNderhill 1737

I. O. O. F. GENERAL RELIEF COMMITTEE

OF

SAN FRANCISCO, CAL.

One Hundred and Sixty-seventh Semi-Annual Term

FEBRUARY, 1936, TO AUGUST, 1936

OFFICERS

President .	Morse Lodge No. 257	SLEY
	u Ben Adhem Lodge No. 112	RSON
Secretary	Fidelity Lodge No. 222	ESON
Treasurer_		WITH

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STANDING COMMITTEES FINANCE C. C. Campbell. O. J. DeWall... Walter Brown Ray Johnson Occidental Lodge No. 292 Out Lodge No. 190 Out Lodge No. 399 Out Lodge No. 399

	EMPLOYMENT	COMMITTEE
	Malchow I. Meyer Weinberg	Harmony Lodge No. 13 Yerba Buena Lodge No. 15 Excelsion Lodge No. 310
	HOSPITAL CO	OMMITTEES
	SOUTHERN PACE	FIC HOSPITAL
A. G.	C. Campbell Bell Moneil Amorsen	Fidelity Lodge No. 222 Bay City Lodge No. 71 Presidio Lodge No. 334 Presidio Lodge No. 334
	SAN FRANCISC	O HOSPITAL
E.	J. Kubish Sorerson	Golden Gate Lodge No. 204 Alta Lodge No. 205

U. C. HOSPITAL

Pacific Lodge No. 155 Unity Lodge No. 131

Walter Brown . Alta Lodge No. 295 D. DeGiorgis Columbus Lodge No. 394

California Lodge No. 1—Meets every Monday Eve.
G. McCoy. N. G. A. Hessels every Monday Eve.
G. McCoy. N. G. G. 70 San Carlos Aventh Street
A. Reisale, V. G. 370 San Carlos Aventh Street
C. Malchow, N. G. 371 25th Street
L. Klee. P. G. 25 Vesta Street
L. Klee. P. G. 25 Vesta Street
L. Klee. P. G. 13—Meets every Thurs. Eve.
LeRoy E. Moser, N. G. 13—Meets every Thurs. Eve.
LeRoy E. Moser, N. G. 145 Cabrillo Street
C. W. Hayden, V. G. 1366 Pacific Street
C. W. Hayden, V. G. 1366 Pacific Street
C. W. Hayden, V. G. 1366 Pacific Street
Abou Ben Athem Lodge No. 112—Meets every ThursA. J. Patterson, P. G. 2310 36th Aven.
J. G. Reisner, N. G. 988 Market Street

Concordia Lodge No. 122—Meets every Monday Eve.
A Hoffman, Y. 181 Ledy Street
A pollo Lodge No. 123—Meets every Friday Eve.
W. H. Watson, N. C. 479 27th Street
M. Kuentskin, V. G. 479 27th Street
M. Kuentskin, V. G. 479 27th Street
M. Lodge No. 125—Meets every Friday Eve.
W. H. Watson, N. C. 27th Street
M. C. 400 Linters Point Drydocks
Unity Lodge No. 131—Meets every Tuesday Eve.
L. Loroge, N. G. 240 Calonomia Street
Facific Lodge No. 155—Meets every Tuesday Eve.
L. Loroge, N. G. 240 Calonomia Street
Facific Lodge No. 155—Meets every Tuesday Eve.
Dr. C. Vogt, N. G. 246 Capp Street
Occidental Lodge No. 179—Meets every Friday Eve.
Dr. C. Vogt, N. G. 220 Calonomia Street
Ray Johnson, V. G. 280 Capp Street
Ray Johnson, V. G. 281 Calonomia Street
Ray Johnson, V. G. 281 Calonomia Street
Ray Johnson, V. G. 282 Calonomia Street
Ray Johnson, V. G. 283 Capp Street
Ray Johnson, V. G. 380 Capp Street
L. Sorenson, V. G. 89 Capp Street
L. Sorenson, V. G. 80 Capp Street
L. Sorenson, V. G. 80 Capp Street
L. Lotte, V. G. 80 Capp Street
L. Sorenson, V. G. 80 Capp Street
L. Sorenson, V. G. 118 17th Ave.
C. Campbell, N. G. 1944 Calonomia Street
L. C. Campbell, N. G. 1944 Calonomia Street
L. C. Campbell, N. G. 1944 Calonomia Street
L. G. Agne, V. G. Carro of Lette man Hospital
Excelsion Lodge No. 310—Meets every Mednesday Eve.
Peter Beasley, F. G. Carro of Lette man Hospital
Excelsion Lodge No. 322—Meets every Mednesday Eve.
C. C. Campbell, N. G. 1944 Calonomia Street
L. G. Agne, V. G. Carro of Lette man Hospital
Excelsion Lodge No. 322—Meets every Juesday Eve.
C. G. Monell, N. G. 1273 Market Svreet
J. Sorinson, V. G. 1417 Junit Ave.
R. Manoni, N. G. 1273 Market Svreet
J. Sorinson, V. G. 1417 Junit Ave.
R. Manoni, N. G. 1417 Junit Ave.
R. A. Nelson, V. G. 1417 Junit Ave.
R. A. Nelson, V. G. 1417 Junit Ave.
R. M. G. Junital Ave.
R. A. Solomo, V. G. 1417 Junit Ave.
R. M. G. Junital Ave.
R. A. Solomo, V. G. 1418 Junital Ave.
R. A. Bossi, N. G. 1900 Street Ist and 3rd Huns.
R. G. Junital Ave.
R. A. Bossi, N. G. 1900 Street Ist and 3rd



OFFICE OF THE GRAND MASTER

Grand Lodge, I. O. O. H.

of the State of California

GRANT BUILDING, COR. 7TH AND MARKET STS.
H. D. RICHARDSON
GRAND SCRETTARY

San Francisco, Cal., August 1, 1907.

To all Lodges Subordinate to the Grand Lodge, I. O. O. F., of the State of California, Greeting:

Odd Fellowship is progressing rapidly in point of membership and amount of good it is doing in the cause of humanity. If, perchance, there is a weak Lodge it is urged that you do all in your power to revive the waning spirit of that Lodge. The moment may be a critical one in its history, and a careful handling of the situation by the officers may save it and its members to the ranks of Odd Fellowship. Attend the meetings as frequently as possible, thus giving encouragement and support to those you have placed at the helm and as guiding stars in your Lodge.

It is the aim of the Grand Master to visit all the Lodges as laid down in his Official Visitation District at least once during his term of office. Whenever and wherever a date is assigned for a visitation it is the sincere wish of the Grand Master that the members of the Lodge, as well as visitors, will find it convenient to attend, thus making the meeting an instructive, agreeable and enjoyable one to all alike concerned.

With very best wishes for your future success, continued prosperity, and hope that you will make this the banner year in the ranks of American Odd Fellowship in the State of California.

Sincerely and fraternally yours in Friendship, Love and Truth,

F. B. Ogden

Attest:

Grand Master.

Grand Secretary.

MA Richardson.

Letter dated August 1, 1907 from the Grand Lodge of California (San Francisco).

CHAPTER 10

THE ODD FELLOWS BUILDING—1909

cting quickly to preserve the integrity of the Odd Fellows in San Francisco, the Odd Fellows Hall Association of San Francisco met immediately after the destruction of the building to plan for the construction of a new building. Using the insurance money from the destroyed building, selling off a piece of the land the 1884 building used to sit upon, and gaining a majority of support from the organization, a new building would stand in the place of where disaster nearly toppled the Order.

The Odd Fellows Board selected local architect George Andrew Dodge whose office was located at 244 Kearny Street. Victor Hoffman was hired as the builder of the new Odd Fellows Building. Unfortunately, George Andrew Dodge died in an automobile accident a short time after the Odd Fellows Building was built.

One sad incident occurred on August 12, 1909, when "in the course of construction" of the steel-framed Odd Fellows Building, an iron worker by the name of Andrew Smith was killed, leaving a widow, Callie Smith. The 39-year-old Canadian native had been employed by the Ralston Iron Works of San Francisco.

In 1909, upon constructing the new building to replace the one destroyed by the earthquake and fire of 1906, the cornerstone was laid. Just about every dignitary in the California Odd Fellowship, along with the members of San Francisco, witnessed the grand event and celebration. The site of the cornerstone was that of the previous cornerstone. The contents of the copper box (the thin-lined vault) presented by

UUU FELLUWS, AFTEK GREAT PARADE, LAY

5,000 Persons Representing Lodges in All Parts of State See Ceremony.

EXERCISES ARE SIMPLE

George F. Hudson Puts Block in Place; W. W. Watson Delivers Oration.

Men Taken on Merits.

Officers Who Assisted.

Will Cost \$200,000.

Will Cost \$200,000.
The new strains un, with furnishing, The new strains un, with furnishing, the handless, the strains under the handless, for a cost possible strains under the strains of the strains of the strains under the st

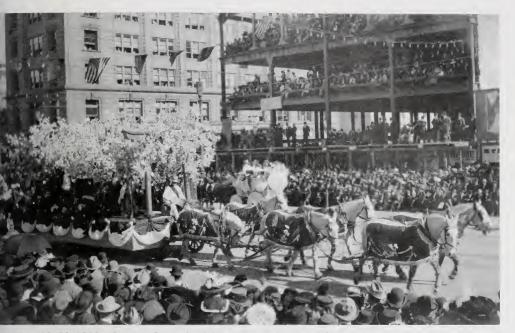
\$200,000 Home Officially Begun Odd Fellows Place Cornerstone



Laying of the cornerstone ceremony. Sunday, 2pm, October 17th, 1909.

Captain J. B. Outland of Canton No. 5, Patriarchs Militant, which was placed in the cornerstone, contained the following:

Constitution of the Sovereign Grand Lodge Constitution of the Grand Lodge of California Proceedings of the Grand Lodge, I.O.O.F.S of California, 1909 Grand Masters Visitation, 1909 to 1912



October 19–23, 1909—Portola Festival celebrates the rebuilding of the city with parades and estivities. Odd Fellows Building in background during construction phase. Many people enjoyed vatching the parade from the vantage of the construction site. (Photo courtesy of Darlene Thorne)

Constitution Grand Encampment of California

Proceedings of the Grand Encampment of California, 1908
Proceedings of the Rebekah Assembly, 1909
Constitution and by-laws of the San Francisco lodges
Constitution and by-laws of the San Francisco Encampments and Rebekah lodges General Relief Committee, reports and forms used by the Relief Committee, meetings of Excelsior Degree Lodge No. 2
Autographs of the Directors of the Hall Association, to wit: C. E. Benedict, W. H. Blunden, C. Brind, A. H. Cousins, J. H. Cope, J. Deas, Geo. E. Davis, E. D. Flanders, Geo. H. Freiermuth, T. R. Morse, C. E. Post, A. Pauba, M. J. Plashek, Chris. Roeber, J. B. Russell, H. Stern, Theo. Steiner, E. Thiele, Alfred Fuhrman, C. P. Gibbons, M. Greenbaum, J. W. Harris, J. Hinrichs, Hermann Joost, W. C. Johnson, Frank Krull, Jo. J. de Haven, Fred. Toklas, J. H. Thrane, E. J. Thayer, Jos. Winterburn, F. W. Warren, Frank D. Worth, Geo. H. Wilson, W. J. Wigmore, and F. L. Turpin.

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October, 1909 Portola Festival. Rare construction views of Odd Fellows Building at Seventh & Market Streets. (Photos courtesy of John Freeman)

Plate containing same name of the Hall Directors, 1884, taken from the old cornerstone Program of the day's proceedings

San Francisco Chronicle of May 14, 1884

Fifty Years of Odd Fellowship in California (1899), presented by Guy Lathrop, P. G. ('Past Grand,' a title)

Gold dollar (from old cornerstone) presented by M. Greenbaum, P. G. Spanish dollar (contributor unknown)

Souvenir badge and various coins, presented by W. A. Patterson, P. G. Canadian silver coin, presented by W. A. Curtis, P. G.

Badges of the Hall Association

CHORP HEMBA MEMBRUNCH

LAW OFFICES OF
CROSS & NEWBURGH
BALBOA BUILDING
593 MARKET STREET
S. E. COR. SECOND ST.

PHONE KEARNY 4774

SAN FRANCISCO, CAL. July 26, 1910.

Ralstor Iron Works, Iro., 20th and Indiana Sts., City.

Gentlemen: -

The undersigned is in receipt of a letter from Messrs. Sullivan & Sullivan and Theo. J. Roche, representing the widow of Andrew Smith, a structural iron worker who was killed August 12, 1909, while employed by you or your subcontractor on the building then in the course of construction for the undersigned at the southwest corner of Market and Seventh Streets in the City and County of San Francisco. Said Smith was at that time ergaged in performing work on the contract theretofore entered into letween you and the undersigned, which contract is dated March 11, 1909.

The undersigned will look to you to save it harpless from any liability on account of the death of said orith and to defend it in case any action be brought by the heirs or representatives of the said deceased to resover on account of said accident. The undersigned would suggest that you or your attorney take up this natter with its attorneys, lessre. Cross & Newburgh, Falloa Bldg., in this city.

Very truly yours,
Q.211. Bunch

THE ODD PELLOWS HALL ASSOCIATION of San Francisco

Letter regarding the death of an iron worker, during the construction of the Odd Fellows Building, July 26, 1910.

San Francisco Jame 9 1910 We the undersigned, Contractors for the Odd Fellows Building hereby agree to do the herewiafter mentioned items necessary to fully complete the said Odd llows Building, and to perform the work promptly and in a proper like manner; nan Refair broken or defective cement plastering glass in roundows Have 5 pieces of marble in vestibule reple by new pieces, all electric right as per specifications, refit ig door in attic to Felter room Repair damaged plastering in Grand Dearetary's Office. of the notice of acceptance of said & by the Owned shall not constitute a acceptance of the foreg Hoffmann & Youck

Contract agreement from a building Contractor, dated June 9, 1910.





TELEPHONES MARKET 936 HOME J 1731 H. D. RICHARDSON

ODD FELLOWS BUILDING

a. M. Brand Le and Delan Pa

SAN FRANCISCO, CAL., June 18, 1910.

To all Subordinate and Rebekah Lodges of the I. O. O. F., of the State of California, Greeting:

Brother W. L. Kuykendall, Grand Sire of the Sovereign Grand Lodge, is now on his way to California, and will be in the city of San Francisco on Monday, June 27th, 1910. The Board of Directors of the Odd Fellows Hall Association of San Francisco have decided to dedicate the new Odd Fellows Hall at Seventh and Market Streets, San Francisco, while the Grand Sire is in the City and have invited the Officers of the Grand Lodge to officiate in the dedicatory ceremonies which invitation the Grand Master has accepted, and the dedication will take place at 2 o'clock in the afternoon of Monday, June 27th, 1910.

The dedication of this new temple to its noble purposes will be an epoch in the history of Odd Fellowship in California, therefore all Subordinate and Rebekah Lodges are notified of the occasion.

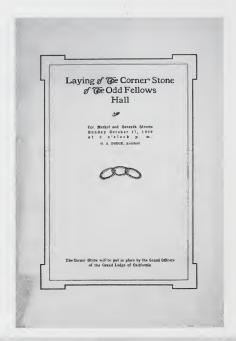
The offices of the Grand Secretary and Secretary of the Rebekah Assembly are now located in the Odd Fellows Building.

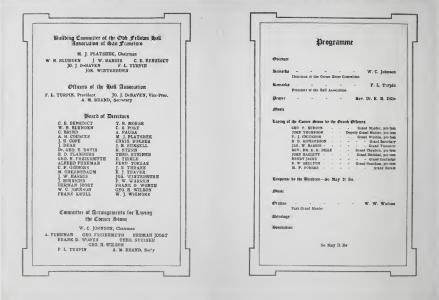
Fraternally yours,

W. Suckworth

H.D. Richardson_ Grand Secretary.

A letter indicating that the Grand Sire of the Sovereign Grand Lodge "will be in the city of San Francisco on Monday June 27th, 1910". His honored presence was for the dedication ceremony of the newly rebuilt Odd Fellows Building at Seventh & Market Streets.





Program for the cornerstone ceremony held on October 17, 1909. (Cover on far left, inside program on right.)

A. HAINES

L. SUMMERFIELD

H. HAINES

SUMMERFIELD & HAINES

Clothing, Furnishing Goods

Hats, and Shoes

1089=1091 MARKET STREET

Jan Francisco. 190 he hereby agree to take store in F. Building Tomer 7th Mar 37/2 ft. on Marketand 82 ft on 79 E to be conducted as a Stothing store (Meus-Yout thing-Hato Furnishings) windows properly backed dwood floors & electric u it's to be covered i cutrance to store Low Sutter & Kearsteef, and with a I to be furnished with window awing using, toilet washestand Electric wered Rent to be as follows from ang 1et to Dec 3/1912 - 5000 per mo. from fait/1913 to sev31/1915- 60000 " rumerfield & Nove

One of the many tenants the Odd Fellows has had over the years. Rental contract dated 1912.

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Program Grand Encampment, sessions at Woodland, 1909 Copies of the *San Francisco Call, Chronicle* and *Examiner* of August 19, 1909

The aforementioned items still remain in the cornerstone of the Odd Fellows Building as far as it is known.

The members of the Odd Fellows not only rebuilt their home in San Francisco, but the decision to rebuild secured a growing future for the organization. The membership in California exploded from 40,974 in 1906, to its peak, an impressive 58,882 in 1928. Once having enjoyed a larger membership than the Masonic Order until the late 1920s, the Odd Fellows fell dramatically over the next several years, allowing the Masons to gain the lead in terms of membership in the state.







The new Odd Fellows building, at Seventh & Market Streets in San Francisco. From left to right, the photos of the building are dated—1915, 1939, and 1940.

CHAPTER II

THE WARS

S there were hundreds of thousands of men involved in the Civil War between 1861 and 1865, this Order saw many of its own members involved. This was a division that separated the North from the South, the Blue from the Gray, and inadvertently caused the unwanted division and fighting between members of the Odd Fellows. However, there were some incidences between brothers of the Order who recognized each other and expressed little, if any, ill will against their brethren on the opposing sides. There are written recordings of the noble deeds expressed toward members on opposing sides. But this being a war of universal principles, it was larger than any fraternal organization.

The effects of the Civil War involved the Order at what it did—and still does—best. In his report to the members at the sessions of the Grand Lodge of the United States, the Grand Sire, speaking on the status of money given to a fund which had been created to aid the impoverished in the war regions, stated the following: "It is a significant indication of the non-partisan spirit which pervades this great fraternity."

Many members of the Order participated in the Civil War; some lost their lives. In a few instances, those losses were reported during the Grand Lodge sessions. In the California Journal of 1865, the following was reported at the San Francisco Sessions:

"On the 19^{th} [of] September, the Telegraph transmitted the melancholy announcement of the death of P. G., Charles S. Eigenbrodt, of the California Calvary, who was killed instantly on the 2^{nd} of

September, while leading a charge under General Averill, in the Shenandoah Valley. P. G. Eigenbrodt was for many years an active and zealous working member of the R. W. Grand Lodge. In his death the Order has lost one of its most efficient members, whose whole life was a living exemplification of the principles he professed. He will be missed from the familiar post of his accustomed labors, to whose duties the full powers of his active mind were ever devoted. His place will not soon be filled to the complete standard of his moral worth."

And finally at the conclusion of the Civil War, in his Closing Address of the 1865 Grand Lodge Sessions in San Francisco, Grand Master Charles O. Burton stated:

"And now that the scenes of war are passing away, in which our jurisdiction has felt its pangs, in the loss of several noble brothers who have sacrificed their lives in the defense of their country, and while we should be ready at all times to maintain and support our Government in all its trials, and should in no wise countenance or anything that is in opposition thereto, or screen those who have unjustly offended against the law of the land, leaving them to answer to the proper tribunals, I believe we can advance the principles of our Order."

World War I and World War II saw millions of men leave to fight. This also meant many members of the Odd Fellows were compelled to join in these wars. Some members even corresponded with their lodges on a regular basis. Each lodge, in fact, kept blue star—and, God forbid, gold star—flags in the lodge rooms to represent the number of members fighting in the war and even those members that had died, respectively.

An interesting fact is that the Odd Fellows in California kept records of all its members who served in these wars. In the appendix section of the 1919 Proceedings is where these names are found. Because the list is so vast, rather than list all of those names of people who served, only the names of those San Franciscans who were killed, died, or wounded in World War I are listed.

Killed in action: John Mounes, Franco-American Lodge No. 207, May 24, 1916; Karl J. Hagel, Odin Lodge No. 393, October 5, 1918.



Veteran's banner from WWI, representing the number of member veterans serving from Abou Ben Adhem Lodge No. 112. Note the one gold star.

Died of natural death: J. M. Fredline, Abou Ben Adhem Lodge No. 112, December 1, 1918; W. S. Johnson, Abou Ben Adhem Lodge No. 112, April 26, 1918; Ivan Bernhardt, Pacific Lodge No. 155, February 24, 1919; George E. Roche, Fort Point Lodge No. 406, October 2, 1918; Frank W. Winter, Fort Point Lodge No. 406, December 2 1918.



U.S. Cruiser "San Francisco". Circa 1890's.



Transport Sherman, laden with boys from Manila, entering the San Francisco harbor.

Wounded: John G. Teeple, Apollo Lodge No. 123, injured in knee, mine explosion, P. E. Moore, Parker Lodge No. 124, knee injured, recovered; Augustus L. Lawson, Alta Lodge No. 205, right arm permanently disabled, wounds in chest; Fred E. Seike, Fidelity Lodge No. 222, gassed, recovered.

The Order involved itself in the war efforts in both wars. It collected taxes from lodges for support of those efforts. It recognized



Received your letter last month, very glad for hear from your I'm fuling fine think I have suit tranch thoroughly and am ancious to return have think best wishes to you all

Postcards from France. Presidio Lodge No. 334 member, Fred J. Bodiken, sent several cards and letters while serving during WWI.



PLOERMEL — Un coin du Parc du 102° d'Attillerie Lourd yve Calludre, édit., Pioèrmel, Morbiban



Postcards from France. Presidio Lodge No. 334 member, Fred J. Bodiken, sent several cards and letters while serving during WWI.

those members that had fallen in war; and it paid tribute to those injured. Members of San Francisco were affected as much as any other city in America.

The impact of World War II on the organization was evident. The Sovereign Grand Lodge did not hold a convention in 1945. In California, the Grand Lodge created many committees related to the war. There was a committee established to urge members to purchase War Bonds and to give blood plasma. Another committee was put into place to assist with the Hospital Project for Disabled War Veterans.

In 1945, Golden West Lodge No. 322 (San Francisco) reported its member Cecil M. Barnes had been killed in action in France. During the 1946 sessions of the Grand Lodge, Grand Secretary Frank D. Mac-Beth requested that all lodges report their members who had served and died in the war. Until then, only scattered reports of deceased members were reported in the lodges. Grand Lodge never received the requested reports.

As late as 1948, the Grand Secretary reported the following: "I have suggested for the last several years that a complete list of all Brothers of California Lodges, who made the Supreme Sacrifice, should be sent to your Grand Lodge and published in our Journal. We have never received a full list. Again, I suggest this." Unfortunately, a listing of those who served, were wounded, or perished in World War II never materialized. Perhaps the lodges were more concerned about holding their membership together and concentrating on membership issues, given this was a pivotal time in the Order's growth and decline. For whatever reason, a listing was never submitted.

After World War II, the Order saw a brief stabilization and even an increase in membership for 3 years in California. But this was most likely caused by veterans seeking camaraderie with others like themselves. But the circumstances that affected the Odd Fellows' decline 2 decades later caught up and the decline continued.

OFFICE OF WAR RELIEF COMMITTEE





H. D. RICHARDSON OWS BLDG. 7TH AND MARKET STS SAN FRANCISCO, CAL

LYMAN M. KING GRAND MASTER REDLANDS, CALIF.

San Francisco, Cal., September 8, 1919.

To all Subordinate Lodges under the Jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge, I. O. O. F., of the State of California:

Dear Sirs and Brothers:

The enclosed blank is to be used in making claim for dues of Brothers now in the Military and Naval service for the period beginning July 1, 1919, and ending September

This claim should also include 50 cents War Assessment levied at the recent session of the Grand Lodge.

Blanks for sick benefits will be furnished on application.

All claims should be filed promptly.

Please fill out the blanks with typewriter (if practicable) and forward to H. D. Richardson, Grand Secretary, Seventh and Market Streets, San Francisco, in the special envelope enclosed.

Fraternally yours,

Lyman M. King Grand Master.

H. W. BRUNK, Past Grand Master, H. D. RICHARDSON, Grand Secretary,

JAS. W. HARRIS, Grand Treasurer, W. W. WATSON, P. G. M.,

CLIFTON H. CONNICK, P. G. M.,

War Relief Committee.

Lodges were asked to make waivers for dues on members serving in war. At the same time, the organization levied a "50 cents War Assessment" on each member serving. September 8, 1919.



The Sovereign Grand Lodge

OF THE

Independent Order of Odd Fellows

OFFICE OF THE GRAND SIRE

To the Officers and Members of Grand and Subordinate Lodges:

It is not only desirable, but important, that there be furnished, as early as possible, to the Grand Masters of each Jurisdiction, from each Subordinate Lodge, a complete list of those who entered or served in the Army or Navy, also the names of those who died in the service, and a list of those who were wounded, with a statement of the character of the wounds, and if maimed, this also should be stated in the information furnished. When this information is obtained, it is desired that it be tabulated so as to show the number from each Jurisdiction that entered the Army or Navy, with the number of those who lost their lives, the number of those who were injured and incapacitated for service, also the number of those who lost one or both arms or limbs or eyes, and the number of those who are incapacitated for labor by reason of their wounds.

When this information is secured by the Grand Officers of the Grand Jurisdiction, it should be promptly set to the Grand Secretary, John B. Goodwin, at Baltimore. Maryland. It is not expected that this information can be furnished before July 1, but it is desired that it be furnished as early as possible. The Order should and will make provision for the brethren who were wounded or injured in the service of their country and in need of assistance. Information of the kind indicated will be necessary in order to determine the extent of the demands upon the Order and is necessary to enable the Order to furnish assistance. The Grand Master and Officers of each Jurisdiction should take up this work at the earliest opportunity and advise each Subordinate Lodge what is needed. The task is a large one, but some such method will be needed if we are to do our duty in learning the extent of the demands upon the Order. Until the extent of the demands is known, intelligent action cannot well be taken in the premises.

Done at the City of Amsterdam, New York, this 3d day of February, 1919.

Attest:

ENRY V. BORST,

JOHN B. GOODWIN,

HA Richardson

Grand Secretary.

Grand Sire.



The Grand Lodge, J.O.O. J. of the State of California

OFFICE OF THE GRAND MASTER

Odd Fellows' Building, Seventh and Market Streets, San Francisco

Berkeley, Cal., April 10, 1919.

To all Subordinate Lodges under the Jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge, I.O.O.F., of the State of California:

Pursuant to the above request of Brother Henry V. Borst, Grand Sire, I am inclosing herewith blanks to be used by the Subordinate Lodges, giving definite information as to the names of the brothers killed or wounded in either the Military or Naval service of the Government, and, if wounded, the names and kinds of wounds.

As I desire to have this information before the Grand Secretary of the Sovereign Grand Lodge as soon as possible, so that the same may be tabulated, I will thank the brothers for attending to this with the least possible delay. Yours in F., L. and T.,

Attest:

H, W, Brunk Grand Master.

Grand Secretary.

Letter from Sovereign Grand Lodge and Grand Lodge of California, requesting that all those lodges having members who fought in the war and were either injured or killed to submit each member's name. 1919.



CHAPTER 12

THE END OF THE CEMETERIES IN SAN FRANCISCO

There the membership flourished, the Odd Fellows Cemetery, along with every cemetery in the city, was being forced to relocate. The Great Quake did not lend itself to the future of the cemetery.

In the late 1890s, officials sought to free up additional land space in the already-growing city. In 1900, the board of supervisors prevented any more burials in the city. This was the beginning of a series of events leading to the end of cemeteries in San Francisco.

The Great Quake only made things worse for the operators of the Odd Fellows Cemetery in 1906. It left many of the stones in ruins. If



Odd Fellows Cemetery, San Francisco, 1906. Note damage to structure. (Courtesy of California Historical Society)



Odd Fellows Cemetery of San Francisco. Damage caused by 1906 earthquake. (Courtesy of California Historical Society)

the stones were not totally destroyed, chances were they were tilted or moved out of place. The monument of Samuel M. Parker, the first Grand Master of the Odd Fellows in California, "was shattered into a thousand pieces." Astonishing, the monument of Charles de Young was not affected. And, the statue of John Morse was an inch from toppling over.

Aside from a crack in the west wing and a few urns moved out of position, the Odd Fellows Columbarium held up quite well.

The cemeteries in San Francisco turned into camping grounds for many people that were displaced after the quake. In years to follow, the cemeteries slipped into an even worse despair. Youths would often vandalize the graves, and looters would rob whatever could be found. This would be the condition of the Odd Fellows Cemetery for the remainder of its existence.

Although the defunct cemeteries stood in poor condition, in the general election of 1914, the people voted not to remove the cemeteries, believing there was a land scheme to remove the cemeteries, as proposed by their beloved Mayor Rolph. And again, in 1924, after sev-



Monument of Dr. John Frederick Morse. This monument, and the remains of Morse were moved from the Odd Fellows Cemetery to Mt. Olivet Cemetery in Colma in 1933, and rededicated on April 15, 1934.

eral ordinances were placed into effect in 1923 by the board of supervisors, ordering the disinterment of all human remains from Calvary, Laurel Hill, Masonic, and the Odd Fellows cemeteries, San Francisco Mayor James Rolph Jr., also a member of the Odd Fellows Fidelity Lodge No. 222, asked the people to fight against the ordinances. The people voted against the removal of the graves.

Despite the legal and political battles to keep the cemeteries in the city, the Odd Fellows removed what graves could be found before any such laws directing such were ever passed. By the mid-1920s, the Odd Fellows had moved all the graves to Colma, the future site for many



Removal of remains from Odd Fellows Cemetery in San Francisco. Nearly all of the remains at this point were relocated to Colma and placed in one mass grave. Circa 1930's. (Courtesy of San Francisco History Center, San Francisco Public Library)

souls still lying in graves in San Francisco. The Odd Fellows moved into Greenlawn Cemetery. Some of the stones on graves that were still salvageable were placed in the new cemetery. If relatives or friends funded removal of a body and headstone, the stone was transferred, to be placed in a single grave with the stone being reset. If not, the headstone would end up being part of the breakwater in areas of the San Francisco Bay or used to build the seawall at the Aquatic Park. For the twenty-eight thousand departed, they were laid under a great monument in one mass grave.

Today, this mass grave sits in a seemingly empty lot, its history or significance forgotten in the memories of those around during the time of the movement of graves. One lone monument marks the location of the graves, which is located in a back lot of the Greenlawn Cemetery. The Odd Fellows have not owned or operated a cemetery business in or near San Francisco since the 1920s.

The Columbarium is the only reminder that an Odd Fellows Cemetery ever existed in San Francisco. The Crematory was demolished after the graves were removed. After it was transferred to the Bay Cities Cemetery Association in 1930, the Columbarium and the five re-



This forgotten lone monument sits near a dump behind the Greenlawn Cemetery in Colma. Beneath it rests the remains of 28,000 people that had been moved from the Odd Fellows Cemetery in San Francisco. Home Depot store is in the background.

maining acres surrounding it were claimed under the Homestead Act. It was under the control of Cypress Abbey until 1980, when the Neptune Society of Northern California took it over. The Society did a fantastic job of rehabilitating an otherwise dilapidated and decaying building. Today, the San Francisco Odd Fellows and the citizens of San Francisco can thank the Neptune Society of Northern California for preserving a piece of its history.



CHAPTER 13

WHAT ONCE WAS . . .

PRIMARY ODD FELLOWS LODGES & OTHER BRANCHES IN SAN FRANCISCO

(Date Instituted & Disposition/Date)

LODGES:

- California Lodge No. 1—Instituted on September 9, 1849. After consolidating into Concordia Lodge No. 122 in 1966, Concordia Lodge No. 122 petitioned to take name of California Lodge No. 1 in 1988, which was approved by the Grand Lodge
- San Francisco Lodge No. 3—Instituted on July 5, 1851. Consolidated into Morse Lodge No. 257 on November 8, 1918
- Harmony Lodge No. 13—(Lodge conducted in German language) Instituted on June 27, 1853. Consolidated into Concordia Lodge No. 122 on November 13, 1963
- Yerba Buena Lodge No. 15—Instituted on July 7, 1853
- Templar Lodge No. 17—Instituted on October 22, 1853. Consolidated into Presidio Lodge No. 334 on February 1, 1916
- Magnolia Lodge No. 29—Instituted on July 12, 1854. Consolidated into Pacific Lodge No. 155 on July 7, 1938
- Bay City Lodge No. 71—Instituted on September 4, 1857
- Farnsworth Lodge No. 95—Instituted on September 28, 1895. Consolidated into Pacific Lodge No. 155 on June 27, 1918
- **Abou Ben Adhem Lodge No. 112**—Instituted on April 3, 1863. Consolidated into Yerba Buena Lodge No. 15 on October 3, 1940

- Germania Lodge No. 116—(Lodge conducted in German language) Instituted on July 1, 1863. Consolidated into Harmony Lodge No. 13 on April 9, 1918
- Concordia Lodge No. 122—(Lodge conducted in German language) Instituted on January 29, 1866. Concordia Lodge No. 122 petitioned to take name of California Lodge No. 1 in 1988, which was approved by the Grand Lodge
- Apollo Lodge No. 123—Instituted on February 24, 1866
- Parker Lodge No. 124—Instituted on July 16, 1866. Consolidated into Templar Lodge No. 17 on April 6, 1903
- Spartan Lodge No. 125—Instituted on October 6, 1894. Consolidated into Golden Gate Lodge No. 204 November 28, 1944
- Unity Lodge No. 131—Instituted on April 16, 1867. Consolidated into Golden West Lodge No. 322 on September 5, 1946
- Hermann Lodge No. 145—(Lodge conducted in German language) Instituted on July 8, 1868. Consolidated into Harmony Lodge No. 13 on January 4, 1916
- Pacific Lodge No. 155—Instituted on March 25, 1869. Consolidated into Golden West Lodge No. 322 on July 15, 1965
- Ophir Lodge No. 171—Instituted on June 17, 1870. Consolidated into Templar Lodge No. 17 on April 16, 1903
- Occidental Lodge No. 179—Instituted on September 16, 1870. Consolidated into Apollo Lodge No. 123 on September 29, 1965
- Cosmopolitan Lodge No. 194—Instituted on December 13, 1871. Consolidated into Abou Ben Adhem Lodge No. 112 on June 26, 1913
- Golden Gate Lodge No. 204—Instituted on June 28, 1872. Consolidated into Apollo Lodge No. 123 on January 16, 1963
- Alta Lodge No. 205—Instituted on June 29, 1872. Consolidated into Golden West Lodge No. 322 on December 9, 1971
- Franco-American Lodge No. 207—(Lodge conducted in French language) Instituted on August 16, 1872.

- Fidelity Lodge No. 222—Instituted on September 5, 1873. Consolidated into Apollo Lodge No. 123 on January 3, 1967
- Morse Lodge No. 257—Instituted on May 7, 1877
- Western Addition Lodge No. 285—Instituted on August 20, 1879. Consolidated into Occidental Lodge No. 179 on July 14, 1930
- Excelsior Lodge No. 310—Instituted on January 7, 1884. Consolidated into Morse Lodge No. 257 on March 28, 1956
- Golden West Lodge No. 322—Instituted on June 4, 1885
- Presidio Lodge No. 334—Instituted on October 13, 1887. Consolidated into Yerba Buena Lodge No. 15 on October 3, 1940
- Sargent Lodge No. 368—Instituted on May 1, 1891. Consolidated into Golden Gate Lodge No. 204 on December 2, 1913
- Odin Lodge No. 393—(Lodge conducted in Swedish language) Instituted in April 29, 1904
- Columbus Lodge No. 394—(Lodge conducted in Italian language) Instituted on February 27, 1906. Consolidated into Golden Gate Lodge No. 204 on June 5, 1951
- McKinley Lodge No. 396—Instituted on July 1, 1907. Consolidated into Presidio Lodge No. 334 on November, 1912
- Fort Point Lodge No. 406—Instituted on January 27, 1909. Consolidated into Morse Lodge No. 257 on December 2, 1925
- Stanford Lodge No. 485—Instituted on March 30, 1933. Consolidated into Golden Gate Lodge No. 204 on January 5, 1937

ENCAMPMENTS:

- Golden Gate Encampment No. 1—Instituted on February 1, 1853
- Walhalla Encampment No. 7—(Encampment conducted in German language) Instituted on March 21, 1856. Consolidated into Golden Gate Encampment No. 1 on March 11, 1985

- Wildey Encampment No. 23—Instituted on August 1, 1863. Consolidated into Golden Gate Encampment No. 1 on January 10, 1914
- Unity Encampment No. 26—Instituted on March 19, 1867. Consolidated into Golden Gate Encampment No. 1 on February 14, 1955
- Oriental Encampment No. 57—Instituted on July 15, 1876. Consolidated into Golden Gate Encampment No. 1 on March 31, 1989
- Thor Encampment No. 111—(Encampment conducted in Swedish language) Instituted on September 26, 1915. Consolidated into Oriental Encampment No. 57 on March 2, 1940

REBEKAH LODGES:

- California Rebekah Lodge No. 1—Instituted on June 30, 1870. Consolidated into Mission Rebekah Lodge on March 31, 1976, and the new lodge took the name Mission—California Lodge No. 1
- Templar Rebekah Lodge No. 19—Consolidated into California Lodge No. 1 on June 21, 1962
- Oriental Rebekah Lodge No. 90—As of this writing, this is the only remaining Rebekah Lodge in San Francisco. On May 20, 2006, the lodge took the name and lodge number of California Lodge No. 1.
- Walhalla Rebekah Lodge No. 130—(Lodge conducted in German language) Consolidated into Mission—California Lodge No. 1 on November 1, 1978
- Amity Rebekah Lodge No. 161—Consolidated into Oriental Lodge No. 90 on October 9, 1974
- Loyal Rebekah Lodge No. 215—Consolidated into Mission Lodge No. 225 on December 3, 1975
- Mission Rebekah Lodge No. 225—Instituted on May 1, 1897. Surrendered its charter May 24, 2003
- Jubilee Rebekah Lodge No. 239—Instituted on December 18, 1909. Consolidated into Presidio Lodge No. 321 on December 19, 1921

- Freja Rebekah Lodge No. 284—(Lodge conducted in Swedish language) Instituted on October 18, 1905. Freja Lodge moved from San Francisco to the Odd Fellows/Rebekah Home in 1967
- San Francisco Rebekah Lodge No. 302—Instituted on March 11, 1908. Consolidated into Templar Lodge No. 19 on December 30, 1911
- Golden City Rebekah Lodge No. 304—Instituted on April 23, 1908. Consolidated into Oriental Lodge No. 90 on March 26, 1941
- Bay View Rebekah Lodge No. 317—Instituted on September 14, 1909. Consolidated into Oriental Lodge No. 90 on July 9, 1975
- Presidio Rebekah Lodge No. 321—Instituted on May 3, 1910. Consolidated into Templar Lodge No. 19 on November 20, 1914
- Of the Rebekah Lodges listed above, only Oriental Lodge No. 90 is still active in San Francisco.

PATRIARCHS MILITANT:

San Francisco Canton No. 5—Closed

In addition to the aforementioned lodges and encampments, there were other Odd Fellows entities in the city which this writer would be remiss not to mention. These included the Veteran Odd Fellows Association, San Francisco Veteran Rebekahs, Ladies Encampment Auxiliary, Ladies Auxiliary Patriarchs Militant, San Francisco Theta Rho Girls Club No. 11, San Francisco Junior Lodge No. 11, and the Excelsior Degree Lodge No. 2.

The Junior Lodge No. 11 was instituted on August 11, 1933, by the Grand Master Fred Boeken at the Odd Fellows Building at Seventh & Market streets in San Francisco. The Junior Lodge was opened to "boys between the ages of 14 and 21 years" (not necessarily the sons of Odd Fellows).

The San Francisco Theta Rho Girls Club was instituted on November 30, 1934, by Sister Mary R. Rewcastle, the Vice President of the Rebekah Assembly of California. The Club closed in the 1970s.

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General Edwin Hazen Black was a member of Unity Lodge No. 131 of San Francisco. He was active in all branches of the order; also serving as the Grand Patriarch of the Encampment in 1882. Note the V.O.F. pin on his chest.



Interior of Office of Secretary of the Rebekah Assembly. 1899. Seventh & Market Streets.



San Francisco Junior Odd Fellows Lodge No. 11. February 11, 1937.



San Francisco Junior Odd Fellows Lodge No. 11 in 1947. Photo provided by longtime member Harry Platek (lower right), who is in the photo as an advisor to the Junior Lodge. (As of the writing, Harry Platek has more than 72 years in the order.)

On September 21, 1853, the Excelsior Degree Lodge No. 2 was instituted for the purpose of conferring degrees upon the members of the Order. It is interesting to note that at that time, this lodge also conferred the Rebekah Degree upon brothers. As pointed out in the *First Fifty Years Of Odd Fellowship In California*, "It may readily be seen that the work of conferring the five degrees of the subordinate Lodge and the Rebekah Degree, too, gave the small band of brothers considerable work."

The Veteran Odd Fellows' Association in San Francisco was created April 24, 1877. After a meeting at the office of Nathan Porter, which was located at northeast corner of California and Kearny streets where numerous Odd Fellows attended, the adoption of a constitution was met with overwhelming approval.

The Veteran Odd Fellow had to be a member with at least 21 years in the Order, live west of the Rocky Mountains, and be a member in good standing in an Odd Fellows lodge. Today, this organization is but a faint memory due to the decline in membership.



A. K. Kingsford was a member of Bay City Lodge No. 71 of San Francisco. In 1876 he was elected as Degree Master. For his efforts of conferring the degrees on so many members of the order, he was presented with a "magnificent gold badge studded with diamonds and other precious stones, manufactured by San Francisco's Shreve & Company".

Heteran Odd Hellows' Association Odd Fellows' Hall. San Francisco



Dear Brother:

The 47th Annual Meeting of this Association will be held in the Odd Fellows Building, Seventh and Market Streets, San Francisco, on Tuesday, May 8th, 1923, at 3 c'clock p. m.

The annual banquet will take place the same evening. You are fraternally invited to be present at these events.

Your dues for the year are ONE DOLLAR. Please remit the same in the enclosed envelope, and also state if you can be present so that proper arrangements can be made.

Any member in good standing who has belonged to the Order for 21 years is eligible for membership.

The admission fee is \$1.00, and dues \$1.00 per year.

If you have not the V. O. F. Badge, as per design above, and desire one, it can be secured from the Secretary. The price is \$2.00.

Hoping to see you present.

Fraternally,

Secretary.

As Friendship, Love, and Truth are principles of the Odd Fellows' lodges and represent three of the first four degrees of Odd Fellowship (an Initiatory Degree takes place prior to the First, Second, and Fourth Degrees), Faith, Hope, and Charity are the principles and degrees of the Encampment. There were additional degrees which were later completely removed or absorbed by the current degrees.

Years ago, after a member attained the title of Past Grand (past presiding officer of a lodge), he was asked to join an Encampment. Today, all members who have received the Third Degree, or the Degree of Truth, are eligible to join the Encampment. It is a level of Odd Fellowship where one can attain not only additional degrees, but also enjoy a fraternal embrace by those seeking principles that embody the strength of those committed to prolonging and enjoying all that the Order has to offer.

"There is no authentic record of the origin of the first Encampment Degree." It has been written the degree was brought from England. Most likely, as stated above, the Encampment was created to allow the teachings of other principles.

The Encampment is best described as follows: "... the Encampment branch is to the Order at large what the colleges are to the common schools of our land. The importance of attaining the Encampment degrees should be evident to every member who is desirous of standing upon the highest plane of American Odd Fellowship."



Past Grand Patriarchs, Sonora, California. Several of the members in this photograph are from San Francisco. Note standing 9th from the left is James W. Harris, Grand Treasurer of the Grand Lodge. Second from right is W. H. Barnes, Grand Scribe of the Grand Encampment, considered by many members from this era to be the greatest Odd Fellow. Photography by R. F. Sanford. Circa October, 1912.

The Patriarchs Militant (PM) of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows is a semi-military uniformed branch comprised of Odd Fellows who seek to achieve the highest degree attainable in Odd Fellowship. The principle is based on *Justitia Universalis* (Universal Justice). San Francisco Canton No. 5 was the local unit for the Patriarchs Militant. There are many reasons this degree, or level, of the Odd Fellows was created. But nonetheless, it was adopted on September 24, 1885, without any objections.

The Patriarch's Militant branch of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows has only one degree. The degree is primarily based upon the story of the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah and saving Abraham's nephew, Lot. Again, this degree teaches the principle of universal justice.

This newly dedicated branch of the Order was headed up by the John C. Underwood, past governor of Kentucky. His title became "General," and he was appointed first Supreme Commander. "The Degree is purely military and for display purposes." The PM enjoyed its own corps of musicians, with a tambour corps, and would usually march together during parades.

Prior to the acceptance of the Patriarchs Militant Degree in 1885, there was a uniformed branch in California, which had also been



General A. R. Stocker, Commanding Patriarch Militant, Canton Lodge (I.O.O.F.).



Major General J. K. Ritter, Commanding Department of California, Patriarchs Militant (I.O.O.F.).

approved by Sovereign Grand Lodge. In 1872, the Patriarchs of California was organized. Their members were comprised of members of the Encampments—another level of Odd Fellowship. The first Battalion was the Golden Gate Battalion, located in San Francisco. The Battalion first performed in Vallejo during a session of the Grand Lodge of California. The practice of uniform drills spread to many areas throughout the state, wherever Odd Fellows could be found. It eventually evolved into what is called the Patriarchs Militant Degree of the Independent Order Of Odd Fellows. In 1886, California officially saw its command of the PM. From its early days in San Francisco, it had grown to "over 1800 members by 1915."

During the Panama Pacific International Exposition of 1915 in San Francisco, specifically on September 22, thousands of Odd Fellows and Rebekahs marched in the parade to the California Building. On the same day, a review of the Patriarchs Militant Army was held at the Marina. A competition of the various Cantons was held in the Civic Auditorium on Grove and Larkin streets.

Today, the Patriarchs Militant branch still exists, but no longer in San Francisco. There is also the Ladies Auxiliary Patriarchs Militant faction which is just as active. The members still wear full uniforms and perform in ceremonial functions of the Order. Although it is not



Odd Fellows Canton No. 5 marching band.



Early image of Patriarch's Militant, San Francisco. (Photo courtesy of John Freeman)



The Rebekahs, near Seventh & Mission Streets (outside of what is now the Appeals Court).



San Francisco Drill Corps of Ladies' Auxiliary (I.O.O.F.).

required to have military experience to join the PM, it is an accepted practice for members to wear and display military ribbons of the U.S. Armed Service which they had earned while serving in the Armed Forces. The PM has the honor of placing a wreath on the Tomb Of The Unknown Soldier each year in Arlington, Virginia, a right granted several decades ago. As in the past, its members strive to compete in drill and become proficient in the manual of the sword. Even this writer has been impressed by the level of commitment and attention that has been placed on the manual of the sword.

June 30, 1870, with the institution of California Rebekah Lodge No. 1 marked the establishment of the Rebekah Assembly, the sister organization of the Odd Fellows, in the state of California.

On Tuesday, May 12, 1891, the Rebekahs elected San Franciscan Mary T. Lyon as their first President in California during their first session of the Degree of Rebekah State Convention. The session was held in the Odd Fellows Building at Seventh and Market streets. This was the first step in establishing the Rebekahs as a significant and important body to the Independent Order of Odd Fellows in California.

Sister Lyon presided for 4 days until a new President was elected and installed on Friday, May 15, 1891. At the time of the session, she was the wife of the Odd Fellows Grand Lodge Secretary Walter B. Lyon (he died 11/4/1893), who most likely gave her some advanced insight as to how a session should be conducted with relationship to the Grand Lodge. Her home Rebekah Lodge was Templar No. 19.

On May 26, 1924, Mary T. Lyon, the first President of the Rebekah Assembly in California, passed away in San Francisco. She was eighty-four years of age.

The Rebekahs' crowning achievement was the creation of the Orphans' Home in the late 1800s at Gilroy, California. In 1896, the Grand Lodge of California granted the Rebekahs authority to establish an Orphans' Home for children of Odd Fellows that had their lost parents. A dedication of the Orphans' Home was held on October 10, 1897.

Today, the home no longer bears the name "Orphans' Home," but is known as "Children's Services" and is one of the nation's foremost institutions offering an array of outreach programs. The Odd Fellows and Rebekahs are proud of this facility.

Rebekah Lodges

California Reb. Lodge, No. 1 1638 Eddy Street

Templar Reb. Lodge, No. 19 1254 Market Street

Oriental Reb. Lodge, No. 90 2121 Market Street

Walhalla Reb. Lodge, No. 130 240 Golden Gate Avenue

Amity Reb. Lodge, No. 161 1254 Market Street

Loyal Reb. Lodge, No. 215 2174 Market Street

Mission Reb. Lodge, No. 225 Schuberts Hall, 16th and Mission

Jubilee Reb. Lodge, No. 239 431 Duboce Avenue

Freja Reb. Lodge, No. 284 2174 Market Street

San Francisco Reb. Lodge, No. 302 159 Church Street

Golden City Reb. Lodge, No. 304 2174 Market Street



I. G. G. F. Directory San Francisco, Cal.

Grand Endge, J. O. O. F. H. D. Richardson Grand Secretary Grant Building, San Francisco

Grand Encampment
W. H. Barnes Grand Scribe
1999 Post St., San Francisco

Rebekalı Assembly

Mary E. Donoho.....Secretary
Grant Budding, San Francisco

F. W. Relief Committee
1254 Market Street
Meets every Sunday at 10 A. M.
A. M. Brand, Secretary

Excelsion Beggree Lodge 222 Van Ness Avenue Meets Second and Fourth Saturday Evening

Subordinate Lodges

California Lodge, No. 1 San Francisco Lodge, No. 3 Hastiony Lodge, No. 13 222 Van Noss Avenue Yerba Buena Lodge, No. 15 1254 Market Street Templar Lodge, No. 17 134 Fulton Street Magnolia Lodge, No. 29 1254 Market Street Bay City Lodge, No. 71 408 Van Ness Avenue Farnsworth Lodge, No. 95 1254 Market Street Abou Ben Adhem Lodge, No. 115 222 Van Ness Avenue Germania Lodge, No. 116 222 Van Ness Avenue Concordia Lodge, No. 122 Geary and Steiner Streets Apollo Lodge, No. 123 431 Duboce Avenue Spartan Lodge, No. 125 14th and Railroad Ave. Unity Lodge, No. 131 hubert's Hall, 16th and Mission Hermann Lodge, No. 145 2121 Market Street Pacific Lodge, No. 155 321 Devisadero Street Occidental Lodge, No. 179 Cosmopolitan Lodge, No. 194 3345 Seventeenth Street Golden Gate Lodge, No. 204 1254 Market Street

Subordinate Lodgen

Alta Lodge, No. 205 1254 Market Street Franco-American Lodge, No. 207 240 Golden Gate Ave. Fidelity Lodge, No. 222 1254 Market Street Morse Lodge, No. 257 1254 Market Street Western Addition Lodge, No. 285 1254 Market Street Excelsior Lodge, No. 310 2337 Mission Street Golden West Lodge, No. 322 1254 Market Street Presidio Lodge, No. 334 134 Fulton Street Sargent Lodge, No. 368 1254 Market Street Odin Lodge, No. 393 2174 Market Street Columbus Lodge, No. 394 1524 Powell Street McKinley Lodge, No. 396 240 Golden Gate Avenue Encampments Golden Gate Encampment, No. 1 1254 Market Street San Francisco Canton, No. 5 1254 Market Street Walhalla Encampment, No. 7 Wildey Encampment, No. 23 Unity Encampment, No. 26 1254 Market Street Oriental Encampment. No. 57 1254 Market Street

Listing of lodges in San Francisco, along with Committee assignments (cover on left, and inside on right).



Mary T. Lyon, President Rebekah Assembly, 1891 (First President).



Group of "Modern Rebekahs", Mission Rebekah Lodge No. 225 in 1899.



Adele Stockwell. President of the Rebekah Assembly in 1915.



I.O.O.F. Orphan's Home in Gilroy, California, at the turn of the century.



I. O. O. F. ORPHANS HOME, MASON CITY, IOWA.



Front and back of a postcard sent to Presidio Lodge No. 334, from a San Francisco member visiting another state.



CHAPTER 14 THE QUOTES

"From personal observation I know this is the fact the City of San Francisco is relieving distressed Odd Fellows, furnishing employment for many, is examining every case with care that the funds of the lodges might judiciously be expended."

Samuel Hale Parker

"Under the most benignant reign of benefits and favors our Order has been gradually and judiciously extending itself throughout the state—our principles and precepts have been rapidly diffusing themselves amongst the masses of society, and our altar-fires, wherever enkindled, have burned with a warmth and brightness that gave the world assurance of an elevated and glorious philanthropy."

Dr. John Frederick Morse

"During the past year the Angel of Death has been busy in our ranks, and some of our noblest members have been stricken down in the pride and vigor of manhood."

James A. Bohen

Grand Master Bohen was reporting on the deaths of various members, including this one of Los Angeles Lodge No. 35. Member H. R. Myles, a Past Grand, had been killed in a steam boiler explosion on the tugboat *Ada Hancock* in the Bay of San Pedro.

"We may restrain our desires, but cannot very easily change our nature; and I, like all other mortals, am not exempt from the common 'ills the flesh is heir to.' It is natural for a man to be pleased with the applause of his fellow men, and although he is always conscious



James A. J. Bohen, the Tenth Grand Master of California in 1862, was also a member of Yerba Buena Lodge No. 15. He died of a sudden illness at the age of 38. Hardly able to speak above a whisper, on his death bed, he uttered these words; "I exhort you, brothers, in your daily works of life to exemplify the beauties of Odd Fellowship—to live moral and religious lives—to be charitable, to be generous, to be just."

of his mortality, and knows full well that he, together with all things, must soon pass into oblivion, yet there is still left a longing desire to write his name upon tablets which will endure longer than his mortal frame; he clings to life and memory, and cannot bear to perish from the minds of men and be forgotten."

James A. Bohen

The Grand Master's response upon receiving special recognition from Past Grand Master John Frederick Morse, on May 9, 1863.

"Although we have escaped the horrors of war in our midst, we have had to struggle very frequently with that terrible enemy—fire."

David Kendall

Grand Master David Kendall, in his annual report of 1864, indicating that the Civil War has not pierced the integrity of the state, but rather that fire has been a worse "enemy."

"We all well know the policy to minimize the loss of life at this time, to keep no record of deaths but those where there was some possibility of identification; but it is useless to conceal the truth, for the historians, who in after years write an authentic account of the 'earthquake and fire of 1906,' will place a figure far and beyond those given to the world today. How many poor souls were lost in that awful holocaust will never be known. Perhaps it is well it is so."

William Wyler Phelps

"This war presents to Odd Fellowship a greater opportunity than ever before to prove its value to humanity. The very existence of civilization, human liberty, and democracy are threatened. Women and little children are dying by thousands in Europe and Asia from starvation and other causes brought on by this war."

Frank C. Goudy, Grand Sire

"More than two million of our boys were either engaged in active battle on the bloody fields of France, or were in training. But, while the war clouds were hanging low and the hearts and minds of men were keenly anxious that the tremendous struggle going on should soon cease, while the whole world seemed disturbed and somewhat apprehensive as to the future, the principles of our beloved Order shone forth with an ever-increasing lustre." World War I

Hugh W. Brunk

"One year ago today, amid a war-torn world, with victory in sight but not yet achieved, when all attention was directed toward Allied Nations Peace Conference in the City of San Francisco, who were laying the foundation of a hoped for—everlasting peace—a limited session of the Grand Lodge of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows of California was called to order in San Francisco to lay plans for a better fraternal world."

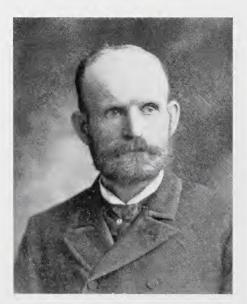
Harry B. Dahlem

"We speak of him as dead because we hear his voice no more. We tell our friends he died in the city of San Francisco, November 29, 1943, and was buried by the officers of this Grand Lodge. But in a very true sense, James W. Harris is not dead."

Eldred Charles, Past Grand Master

James W. Harris was born in Pictou County, Nova Scotia, on December 29, 1854. At the age of 17, he traveled to the United States,

residing in Rhode Island, Massachusetts, and Illinois. He returned to Nova Scotia in December of 1874 and joined the Odd Fellows. In 1875, he moved to San Francisco, California, transferring his membership in the Odd Fellows to Alta Lodge No. 205, later joining Templar Lodge No. 17. After additional traveling throughout the state, he finally returned to San Francisco and took a more committed role in the Order. He rose through the chairs quickly, eventually becoming a Degree Master, then a District Deputy Grand Master. He joined the Encampment branch (Oriental Encampment No. 56), also remaining equally active, rising to the office of Grand Patriarch in California. In 1888, Harris was elected Grand Treasurer of the Grand Lodge of California. He was also a member of the Patriarchs Militant. He was described in the following: "He is a man of strong individuality, extremely practical, a thorough judge, of width, breadth, and thickness, quiet and dignified in his bearing; an excellent judge of men. Brother Harris has a host of friends. As a speaker he is terse, going directly to the point; expressing himself clearly, logically and with force." He also served as Chairman of the Special Relief Committee to oversee the needs of the lodges after the heavy damage and toll cause by the 1906 earthquake and fire. He remained Grand Treasurer until his death in 1943. Harris died at 88 years 11 months of age. He was active in all branches of the Order.



James W. Harris served as Grand Treasurer for California for 55 years, until his death.

During the research of this book, James W. Harris was chosen randomly as a study subject. Not only were multiple photos of him available, but various references were made of him in the journals of Odd Fellowship. There were scores of members of this organization that could have been chosen as focal points, as all have unique and interesting histories. In this regard, this project has not been an exhaustive research. There are so many stories, events, and individuals that the direction could have been different and voluminous. However, one fact did repeat itself time and time again—that Odd Fellowship was the strongest, largest, and most influential fraternal organization in California until the late 1920s.

"I turned to take a last look at those faces on the wall, our Past Grand Masters and Past Grand Patriarchs. Truly it was a sad parting: hardly one among them whom I had not personally known, many of them had for years been warm personal friends, and it was a sad, sad parting indeed. As I left the room for what was to be the last time, I turned to say Good Bye to my predecessors, T. Rodgers Johnson and Walter B. Lyon, and then passing out of the door, a final look at our Grand Master, Samuel H. Parker, whose cheerful smile seemed to say, 'God reigns and all is well."

George T. Shaw

In his 1906 report, George T. Shaw, the Grand Secretary, describing his last trip into the Odd Fellows Building to retrieve what he could from the Grand Lodge office after the San Francisco earthquake and fire. He died only 7 weeks later.



An 1899 photo of the Grand Secretary's office, located at Seventh & Market Streets. Note the portraits of all the Past Grand Masters. Standing to the right is the Grand Secretary, George Thomas Shaw.

CHAPTER 15

THE PROGRESSION— THEN AND NOW

The social dynamic of the organization changed as well. When, until 1971, an applicant was required to be a male "of white blood," today everyone is welcome. There is no gender or race barrier. In fact, women have played a big role in promoting the growth of the Order in recent years. People of every background are seen in the lodge room. It should be pointed out that most organizations set the same criteria and standards for admitting applicants. But not all have changed in order to open their doors to everyone. Because San Francisco is generally accepted as being more progressive, it is no wonder why changes are more easily noticeable in this city. Discrimination would not follow the principles of the Odd Fellows.

As noted, one of the Order's previous prerequisites for membership would require an applicant to be a male of "white blood." It is ironic, given at that period of time up to the 1960s, the reference of "white blood" would have also excluded people of Italian decent, because of the commonality of this group traditionally being associated with the Catholic faith. Catholics were commonly kept out of the Order in rural areas.

Catholics were prevented from joining many organizations. Seemingly, San Francisco Odd Fellowship has always been on the cutting edge of progressivism, allowing "foreigners" to pervade its fraternal ranks. Columbus Lodge No. 394 was instituted February 27, 1906, in San Francisco. Thirty-one Italian Americans were initiated to form the new Italian-speaking lodge. The following residents of San Francisco are listed as charter members: Cyril Alexander Guglielmoni

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	. 19.	O. O. 3 recessivy a avorably favorably	Lodge, No. 245 , I. O. O. Working under the Jurisdictor of the Grand Ledge of the Independent Order of Ook Philose of the State of Confernia
Admitted			Entertaining a favorable opinion of your Benevalent Order, I respe-
Report of the Investigating Committee		g made	fully request admission into your Loigo by inconsideration of an emissionation of such admission. In promise and agree that, if elected will conform to the Constitution and By Laws of your Lodge, and those on account of said membership or encention therewise, in the tribunals the Order only, without resorting for their enforcement in any event or any purpose to the civil courts. My Name 15. White the conformation of the constitution of the court of the constitution of the constitu
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A membership application to Alta Lodge No. 205, submitted by George Washington Ross in 1943. Notice one of the requirements for membership: "I am of full white blood" (A physician's certificate included in the application was required for all applicants).

(the lodge's first representative to Grand Lodge in 1907), Luigi Guinasso, Frederick Figoni, Stephen J. Rossi, Frank Sperlari, John Fiscalini, Eduardo Effisimo, Joseph Palmieri, Angelo Devencenzi, Erennio Melogli, Joseph Figone, Angelo Lagomarsino, Pietro Ramazini, Angelo Ramazini, Angelo Moreschi, Paul Arata, Guiseppe Frediana, Arturo Biaga, Giovanni Farrari, Andrea Simoni, Felice Chifenti, Guiseppe Pellegrini, Giovani Gambarini, Marco Stassi, Andre Ferrari, Niclas Grilich, Antonio D'Andrea, John Ferrari, Luigi Chaippe, Armanini, Rocci Matteucci, and Louis Ferrari.

By the 1920s, the Columbus Lodge reached a membership of over three hundred. However, with the overall decline in Odd Fellowship, by 1949, the Columbus Lodge membership had slipped to just twenty-one members. The lodge met at Seventh & Market streets until June 5, 1951, when it gave up its charter.

Franco-American Lodge No. 207, a French-speaking lodge, was instituted August 16, 1872. Today, this lodge is still active—and continues to conduct its meeting in French. Its charter members included: Phillippi Theas (the lodge's first Noble Grand and first representative to Grand Lodge in 1873), Meyer Ruef, Auguste Derre, Norbert Landry, Joseph Lenormand, Francois Paul Masson, Henri Latroadee, Auguste Casamajon, Eugene Robinet, Emile Henri Cardinet, Guiseppe Cadenasso, Jean Renault, Victor J. LeBert, and Orsein Lemaitre.

In the year 2000, the Independent Order of Odd Fellows in America allowed women into its ranks. It is noted this organization was not forced to accept women, but did so to take advantage of an opportunity to create new growth and keep in step with a modern society. In the past few years, women have added greatly to the Order. By 2007, of the eight Odd Fellows lodges in San Francisco, Yerba Buena Lodge No. 15, Bay City Lodge No. 71, Apollo Lodge No. 123, and Golden West Lodge No. 322 will have had women as presiding officers (Noble Grands). All eight lodges have seen success because of the disappearance of the gender barrier.

Today, the Rebekahs confer the Rebekah Degree upon their members. Men have always been allowed to receive the Rebekah Degree since its inception. However, these men were required to first become members of an Odd Fellows lodge. Rebekahs, in the beginning, were wives of Odd Fellows. The Rebekah membership was then opened to the daughters of Odd Fellows. Not any woman could join! As the years passed, the rules were relaxed and most women were allowed to apply for membership in the Rebekahs. Still, Odd Fellows could join the Rebekah Lodge, but women were not allowed to join the lodges of the men.

In the early days, even until the 1960s, there were some churches that opposed the Odd Fellows because they thought the organization was undermining the church, trying to usurp its authority. However, this was—and still is—not correct. It is not a religious institution, nor has it ever claimed to be. Its principles of Friendship, Love, and Truth are based on Christianity ideals because the predominate and "accepted" institution in America at the time Odd Fellows' degrees were created was Christianity. The members of that period identified with this faith.

Today, we find members of all faiths: Muslim, Christian, Jewish, Buddhist, etc. The Order does not take the place of any person's religion, nor does it seek to religiously satisfy a person's needs. One does not need to be religious to become an Odd Fellow. But a person with religious ideals in his heart and mind may fit that character of an Odd Fellow.

The main tenet of Odd Fellowship is to "relieve the distressed, bury the dead, and educate the orphan." Of course, the Order must adapt in today's ever evolving society. How many fraternal organizations can actually afford to bury all of their deceased members? The costs of burials are expensive. The closest thing to an "orphans' home" is the Rebekah Children's Services in Gilroy, California. This is 75 miles south of San Francisco. To relieve the distressed seems to be all that lodges can do to meet their goals.

In recent years, the Order has defined itself, "to improve the character of mankind" by employing its main principles of Friendship, Love, and Truth. Today, the Order struggles to answer the this question: Can an organization continue when all it has to offer is Friendship, Love, and Truth? Most lodges have very little assets to make an impact in one geographical location. Also, with so few members, what message may be sent to any given community? To survive, the Odd Fellows must show to the world it can "improve the character of mankind through friendship, love, and truth."

The Odd Fellows organization grew for years after the 1906 disaster; however, the Order was not immune to the affects of the economic turmoil that fell upon the nation in the late 1920s. The Great Depression hit the Odd Fellows every bit as hard as it did the country.

As the depression worsened, membership plummeted. In 1928, the membership reached its height of 58,882. In 1932, the membership had declined to 41,926. Of course, people chose to eat and use every means possible to support their families as opposed to giving up valuable dollars for dues in the Odd Fellows, or any organization for that matter.

President Roosevelt's New Deal changed the way Americans would sustain themselves in future years. His administration created Social Security benefits to aid disabled, elderly, and other needy persons. The altering of roles in who or what entity provided the social benefits greatly affected the need of a beneficial society like the Odd Fellows. It is ironic a member of the Odd Fellows would be the instrument in providing assistance to an entire country.

It was in line with those teachings of the Odd Fellows that President Roosevelt sought to relieve those in distress. In a letter to the members of the Odd Fellows, dated February 26, 1936, he stated, "We have incorporated in our good works, education, establishment of homes for the aged, the indigent, the widow and the orphan, so that it is our proud boast that every Grand Lodge in the United States has one or more of these institutions or has taken steps toward their establishment." It was no wonder this country saw those policies so closely aligned with the principles of Odd Fellowship within the New Deal once he took the presidency.

Social programs were established on a federal level, thus affecting some of the social organizations like the Odd Fellows. Membership continued to fall. In 1939, the membership in the state of California had plummeted to 28,302. The Order had lost over twenty thousand members in 10 short years. With World War II, there was a very slight increase in membership, and it is assumed during those years that veterans sought a continued brotherhood and shared companionship upon completion of their service.

Another one of the most damaging changes to the I.O.O.F. occurred in 1925. After years of promoting a stipulated sick benefit—at one time the Order's most "distinguishing characteristic"—the Sovereign Grand Lodge eliminated the compulsory requirement that subordinate lodges pay sick benefits. The reason behind this pivotal decision was the mannerism in which sick benefits were being paid; it had devolved incidences of less frequent payments, non-consistent payments, and a lack of desire by many lodges to pay such benefits. Thus, an added factor to the decline of membership occurred. Three years later, the Odd Fellows would feel the affects and membership would slip decade after decade.

From 1947, and every year thereafter, and for the next half a century, the Independent Order of Odd Fellows in California would see a

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An 1899 ad depicting the German Hospital on 360 Geary Street. Notice at the bottom of the ad; the rates for Odd Fellows have been reduced.

decline. By the end of 2005, membership had reached a low not seen since 1862, of 5,680. But, there has been a resurgence and brief stabilization recently.

San Francisco lodges still boast the largest Odd Fellows lodges in the world. Since 1849, the Order has persevered in San Francisco. How many organizations can say they have been around in one city for such a long duration? Not many!

It should also be pointed out that the decline in membership is not due to the ideological or the philosophical principles that still define the organization, but rather, the changing of governmental laws preventing members to benefit by their own nonprofit organizations.

Whereas the Odd Fellows was once a beneficial society, assisting and aiding one another exclusively, its members may no longer receive

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An advertisement for the T. Rodgers Johnson business from the 1850's. Business was at the Odd Fellows Building on Montgomery Street.T. Rodgers Johnson was a member of San Francisco Lodge No. 3, and served as the order's first Grand Secretary from 1853 until 1875—a year before his death. His last words being: "Oh, how pleasant."

such personal benefits. Changing from a beneficial society on a nation-wide level has caused a need for the Odd Fellows to redefine itself. For the past several decades, the Order has been searching for its identity and its reason for being. It has embraced many programs, from the Arthritis Foundation, Visual Research Foundation (John Hopkins University), United Nations Pilgrimage for Youth Program, to placing a float in the annual Rose Parade in Pasadena, and supporting the I.O.O.F. S.O.S. Children's Village in Cambodia.

Finding the one program that all of the members will accept and embrace has been challenging. However, the evidence still proves the Odd Fellows are doing a wealth of good in every locality, including San Francisco, in which they reside.

In 2007, the Odd Fellows in San Francisco are proud to hold the distinction of having the largest contingency of members throughout the world. There are nearly one thousand members belonging to lodges within the city. In recent years, there has been a resurgence in membership as well. Some of the contributing factors may be the less conservative approach to attracting members. Activities have changed. Lodges in the city tend to have golf tournaments, art shows, overnight tours, and trips to parks, museums, and much, much more. However, if the Order is to survive, it must learn to adapt and integrate within its constantly changing communities, reflecting the social norms of sur-

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Ad from the 1899 Fifty Years of Odd Fellowship in the California book, depicting the J. Porcher Hatter business at the Odd Fellows building.

roundings. In other words, it should keep evolving, reeducating its membership, and not become recalcitrant.

Segments of the Order in certain geographical—or isolated areas—regions remain archaic or outdated and have not evolved toward modernization. Some are not yet "politically correct" and have not yet embraced acceptable social norms. But changes are occurring. In San Francisco, the Odd Fellows, have progressed and reached socially accepted standards.

The historical aspect of the organization and how it relates to the growth of San Francisco is significant. The most prominent members

of society, as well as the average person, made up the membership. This was not an elitist society, but a group of individuals truly believing in the concept of its principles: "Friendship, Love, and Truth." These were San Franciscans! These were members whose characters added to the rich culture this city now enjoys. The Odd Fellows were there when gold was to be found, when railroads were to be built, when buildings were to be constructed, when final resting places needed to be made, when libraries were needed, when people needed relief from disaster, when wars were fought, when jobs were in demand, and when grand affairs and expositions needed participants to promote the growth of the city. In a sense, San Francisco owes its successes and its expansion to the Independent Order of Odd Fellows.



"San Francisco Spirit of Odd Fellowship #1"

Since 1849, the Odd Fellows have made San Francisco its home. It has faced tough decisions and even tragedy, but the Order still has a presence in the City-by-the-Bay. In the future, what becomes of the Odd Fellows organization is anyone's guess. But, the history left behind by this fraternity has been significant to San Francisco.



"San Francisco Spirit of Odd Fellowship #2"



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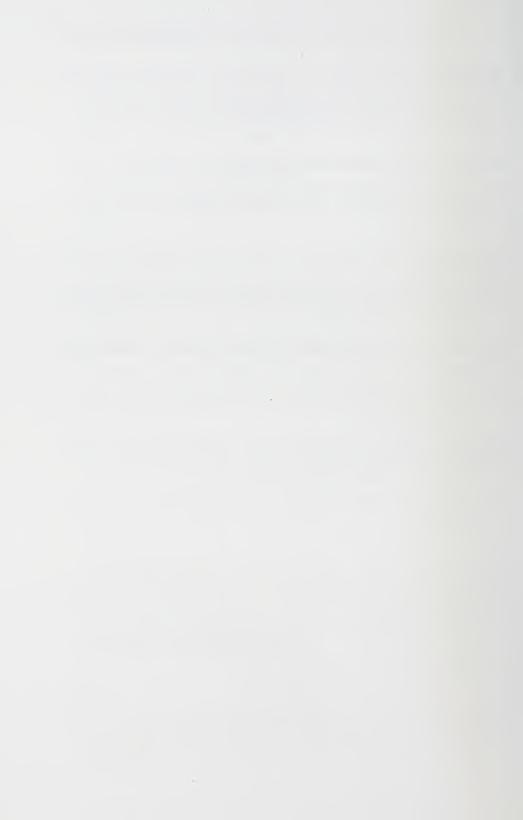
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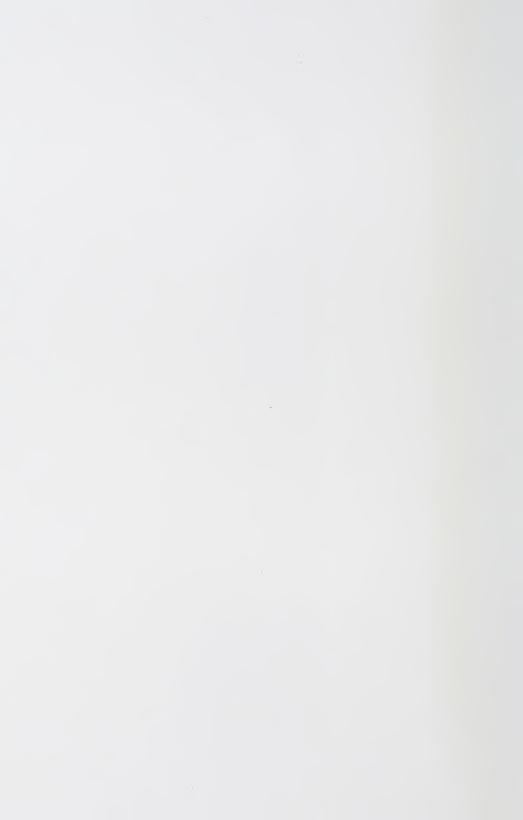
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